



Carrollton Christian Fellowship

Matthew 3: Inductive Bible Study guide

Purpose: To study Matthew 3 deeply using the inductive Bible study method, which involves observation, interpretation, and application. This guide will help you understand John the Baptist's role, the concept of repentance, the significance of baptism, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit as it relates to Jesus' ministry and our lives.

Step 1: Prayer

Begin your study with a prayer to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to open your heart and mind to understand His Word and apply it to your life.

Observation

A. Read Matthew 3:1-17 Several Times

- Read the passage slowly and carefully.

- Pay attention to details. Consider reading in different translations for better understanding.

B. Identify Key Elements

1. People:

- Who are the main characters mentioned in this chapter?
- Note their roles and actions.

2. Places:

- Where do the events take place?
- Note any geographical references.

3. Events:

- What key events and interactions occur in this chapter?
- Make note of significant actions.

4. Themes:

- Identify recurring themes or important concepts.

C. Ask Questions

- Who is speaking?
- What is happening?
- To whom is it happening?
- When does this take place?
- Where does the event occur?

- Why does this event or dialogue take place?
- How does it unfold?

D. Record Observations

Write down your findings. Note verses and specific details that stand out.

Interpretation

A. Context

I. Historical Context:

- What historical and cultural details are relevant to understanding this passage?
- Who was John the Baptist, and what was his mission?

II. Literary Context:

- How does this chapter fit into the book of Matthew as a whole?
- What happens before and after this chapter?

B. Meaning of Key Words and Phrases

I. Repentance:

- Define repentance. How is it more than a feeling?

II. Baptism:

- What is the significance of baptism according to John and Jesus?

III. Holy Spirit:

- How is the Holy Spirit mentioned or symbolized in this chapter?

C. Cross-References

- Find and read other Bible passages related to repentance, baptism, and the Holy Spirit.
 - Repentance: Acts 2:38, Luke 3:3
 - Baptism: Romans 6:3-4, 1 Peter 3:21
 - Holy Spirit: John 14:26, Acts 1:8

D. Summarize the Passage

Write a brief summary of what Matthew 3:1-17 is about. Focus on the main message and purpose.

Application

A. Personal Reflection

- How do John the Baptist's message and actions impact your understanding of repentance and baptism?
- In what ways does the concept of true repentance challenge your current life?
- How can you prepare your heart, as John suggested, for a deeper relationship with Jesus?

B. Spiritual Growth

- Examine areas in your life that require repentance. What actions can you take today to start turning away from those behaviors?
- Have you been baptized? Reflect on the significance of baptism in your personal faith journey.
- Seek the filling of the Holy Spirit. How can you invite the Holy Spirit to guide and empower you in your daily life?

C. Action Steps

- Make a list of specific actions you can take to live out the lessons from Matthew 3.
 - Consider ways to demonstrate repentance in your choices and relationships.

- If you have not been baptized, consider discussing it with a pastor or church leader.
- Regularly pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and look for opportunities to serve others with the gifts He provides.

D. Share and Discuss

- Share your insights and applications with a small group or a trusted friend.
 - Discuss how you can support each other in practicing what you've learned.
-

Additional Resources

- Commentaries: Enduring Word Commentary is a great resource to use to check and confirm what and where the Holy Spirit has directed you towards, connects to be made in scripture, and considerations for personal application.
 - Bible Dictionaries: Look up key terms for a thorough understanding.
 - Study Bible: Use the notes and indexes in a study Bible to gain further context.
-

Conclusion and Prayer

Reflect on your study and how God has spoken to you through Matthew 3. Write a short prayer asking God to help you apply these truths in your life.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Word and for the message of repentance and new life that we see in Matthew 3. Help me to truly repent, to live out the significance of my baptism, and to be empowered by the Holy Spirit in my daily walk with you. Amen.

End Note:

Use this guide daily or weekly, allowing yourself to meditate on each section fully. The goal is to grow in your understanding and relationship with God through His Word.