



**Carrollton Christian
Fellowship**

Study Guide for Matthew 3:16-4:11 using the Inductive Bible Study method

This study guide will help you explore Matthew 3:16-4:11 using the Inductive Bible Study method. The passage covers Jesus' baptism, the descent of the Holy Spirit, and His temptation in the wilderness.

I. Observation

Read Matthew 3:16-4:11 carefully and take notes on the following:

1. Key Events

a. Jesus' Baptism

- i. What happens when Jesus is baptized (3:16-17)?
- ii. What does the voice from heaven say?

- b. The Temptation in the Wilderness
 - i. Where does Jesus go (4:1)?
 - ii. How long does Jesus fast (4:2)?
 - iii. What are the three temptations Satan presents to Jesus (4:3-10)?
 - iv. How does Jesus respond to each temptation?
 - v. What happens at the end of the temptation period (4:11)?

2. Characters

- a. Jesus
 - i. Actions
 - ii. Responses
- b. Holy Spirit
 - i. Role
- c. Satan
 - i. Methods of temptation
- d. God the Father
 - i. Declaration about Jesus

3. Repeated Words/Phrases

- a. Look for repeated words or phrases (e.g., “Holy Spirit,” “It is written”).
- b. Note their significance.

4. Geographic and Cultural Context

- a. Note the setting: Wilderness
- b. Understand the significance of fasting for 40 days and 40 nights.

III. Interpretation

Explore the meaning of the text:

1. Context

- a. What is the significance of Jesus' baptism and the declaration from heaven?
- b. How does Jesus' baptism relate to His mission and identity?

2. The Role of the Holy Spirit

- a. Why is it important that Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit after His baptism?

- b. What does being "filled with the Holy Spirit" signify for Jesus' ministry?

3. The Nature of Temptation

- a. Examine each of the three temptations:
 - i. Turn stones into bread (4:3-4)
 - ii. Throw Himself from the pinnacle of the temple (4:5-7)
 - iii. Worship Satan for all the kingdoms (4:8-10)
- b. How does Jesus use Scripture to refute Satan's temptations?
- c. What do these temptations reveal about Satan's strategy and Jesus' priorities?

IV. Application

Apply the lessons from the text to your life:

1. Reflection

- a. Jesus' Baptism
- b. Reflect on your own baptism (if applicable) and what it signifies for your life.

c. How does God's declaration of Jesus as "beloved Son" impact your understanding of your identity in Christ?

2. Dependence on the Holy Spirit

- a. How can you be more open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in your daily life?
- b. Are there areas where you need to rely more on His power?

3. Facing Temptation

- a. Identify the "stones" in your life that you might be tempted to turn into "bread."
- b. Identify the "pinnacles" in your life that you might have been tempted to "jump" and draw all attention to yourself.
- c. Identify the "kingdoms" in your life where you've given dominion over areas of your life; that you've allowed to be the central passion and highest source of knowledge and direction instead of a relationship with Jesus and His Word?
- d. How can God's Word, obeyed and applied to your life, better equip you against temptation?

e. Reflect on moments when you have faced temptations similar to those Jesus faced. How did you respond?

4. Corporate Application

- a. Fellowship and Accountability
- b. Discuss with a small group or study partner the temptations you face and how you can support each other.
- c. How can your church better support one another in being filled and led by the Holy Spirit?

5. Mission and Ministry

- a. Evaluate your ministry or service within the church. Is it driven by the Holy Spirit or by human effort?
- b. How can the church avoid the pitfalls of the prosperity gospel and stay focused on God's Word?

6. Prayer

- a. Conclude your study with prayer, thanking God for His Word and the Holy Spirit.
- b. Ask for strength to overcome temptation and to be led by the Spirit in all areas of life.

This study guide should help you dive deeper into Matthew 3:16-4:11, connect it to broader biblical themes, and apply its lessons to your personal and communal life.