



**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 give 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.

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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.