

MATTHEW STUDY GUIDE

Matthew 4:1-11

Read through Matthew 4:1-11 this week. Pray and ask God to open your eyes and speak to your heart as you read and study each day.

Day One: Observation. Read Matthew 4:1-11 to get an overview of the passage. Mark or underline key words and phrases as you read. Use a colored pencil or highlighter to note the words “it is written.” Write down what you can learn about Satan from this chapter—what he is called, what he does, what he says, and how he tempts Jesus.

Day Two: Meditation. Read Matthew 4:1-11 several times. Just as the nation of Israel went through a trial in the wilderness, Jesus also goes through a trial in the wilderness. But where Israel failed, Jesus followed the Lord faithfully. Reflect on the scene in your mind. Try to imagine what is taking place. Draw or write your thoughts in your journal.

Day Three: Interpretation. Go to blueletterbible.org and type Matthew 4 into the Search box. Click on Matthew 4:1. Find the word “tempted” and click on the Strong’s #3985. Write the Greek word and its definition in your journal. Note how many times this word is used in the NT and in Matthew. Which book of the NT uses this word the most? (See Search Results by Book in the right hand margin or see Concordance Results.)

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. This is a summary of Israel’s experience in the wilderness. What did Israel do when they were faced with trials in the wilderness? What promise does God give us in 1 Corinthians 10:13?

Day Four: Devotion. J.C. Ryle (1816-1900) has a great devotional commentary on Matthew. You can read it online or download it at ccel.org/ccel/ryle/matthew. Also blueletterbible.org/commentaries has several commentaries on Matthew. David Guzik has a good basic one.

Day Five: Application. Read Matthew 4:1-11. What is your wilderness? What trial or difficulty are you facing in your life? What are you tempted to do in this difficulty? To defeat temptation, Jesus speaks the Word of God. It is not just quoting a verse (even Satan quotes a verse). It is loving God’s Word, understanding it accurately, and living it out faithfully. What truth from God’s Word can help you in your present wilderness?