

STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 8 - The Temptation of Jesus - Matthew 4:1-11

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

MT 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. [2] After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. [3] The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

MT 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

MT 4:5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. [6] "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

" 'He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' "

MT 4:7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

MT 4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. [9] "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

MT 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' "

MT 4:11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 8 - The Temptation of Jesus - Matthew 4:1-11

91. Who led Jesus into the wilderness? Why? (4:1)
92. Where was Jesus led? By whom? (4:1)
93. For what purpose was Jesus led into the desert? (4:1)

94. What made Jesus weak at this time? (4:2)
95. What three names are given to Jesus' adversary in the desert? (4:3, 5, 10)
96. What was the first temptation presented to Jesus? (4:3)
97. How did Jesus respond to the first temptation? (4:4)
98. Where did the devil take Jesus for the second temptation? (4:5)
99. What tempting offer was made to Christ at the highest point of the temple? (4:6)
100. How did Jesus answer the second temptation? (4:7)
101. To what final destination did Satan take Christ? (4:8)
102. What did the devil show Jesus from a very high mountain? (4:8)
103. What did the devil promise Jesus in exchange for worship? (4:9)
104. How did Jesus react to the third temptation? (4:10)
105. What happened after Jesus had resisted Satan three times? (4:11)
106. Who came and ministered to Jesus when all was said and done? (4:11)

Lesson 9 - Jesus Begins to Preach - Matthew 4:12-17

MT 4:12 When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. [13] Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali-- [14] to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

MT 4:15 "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,

the way to the sea, along the Jordan,

Galilee of the Gentiles--

MT 4:16 the people living in darkness

have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of the shadow of death

a light has dawned."

MT 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 9 - Jesus Begins to Preach - Matthew 4:12-17

107. What happened to John the Baptist? (4:12)
108. What did Jesus do when He heard the news about John? (4:12)
109. Where in Galilee had Jesus been living? (4:13)
110. What is revealed here about the geography of Jesus' new home? (4:13)
111. Where in Galilee did Jesus relocate? (4:13-14) Why?
112. What happened where Jesus relocated? (4:13-16)
113. Why was Christ's move significant? (4:14)
114. Who foretold that Jesus would live in Capernaum? (4:14)
115. In what spiritual state were the inhabitants of this region before Jesus moved there? (4:16)
116. How is Jesus' arrival in Capernaum described? (4:16)
117. What did Jesus do in His new hometown? (4:17)
118. What was Christ's message from that time on? Explain that message. (4:17)

Lesson 10 - The Calling of the First Disciples - Matthew 4:18-22

MT 4:18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. [19] "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." [20] At once they left their nets and followed him.

MT 4:21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, [22] and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 10 - The Calling of the First Disciples - Matthew 4:18-22

119. Where did these particular events take place? (4:18)
120. Who did Jesus see as He walked by? (4:18)
121. What nickname did one of Jesus' new disciples have? (4:18)
122. What were Simon and Andrew doing when Jesus approached them? (4:18)
123. What did these brothers do for a living? (4:18)
124. What exactly did Jesus say to Simon and Andrew? (4:19)
125. What was Simon and Andrew's response to Jesus' words? (4:20)
126. How long did Simon and Andrew deliberate over Jesus' offer? (4:20)
127. Whom did Jesus see next? (4:21)
128. Who was Zebedee? (4:21)
129. In what activity were James and John involved? (4:21)
130. What did Jesus do when He saw the two brothers, James and John? (4:21)
131. How did James and John react to Jesus' challenge? (4:22)

Lesson 11 - Jesus Heals the Sick - Matthew 4:23-25

MT 4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. [24] News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. [25] Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 11 - Jesus Heals the Sick - Matthew 4:23-25

132. Where did the incidents in this passage take place? (4:23)
133. What did Jesus do at the synagogues of this region? (4:23)
134. About what did Jesus preach? (4:23)
135. What activities was Jesus involved in during this ministry tour? (4:23)
136. How would you describe the publicity surrounding Jesus' ministry in Galilee? (4:24)
137. How did the masses react to the news of what Jesus was doing? (4:24)
138. What kind of physically and spiritually ill people sought out Jesus? (4:24)
139. What did Jesus do for the suffering individuals who came to Him? (4:24)
140. Jesus' audience grew to include people from what surrounding regions and cities? (4:25)
141. How are the crowds described? (4:25)
142. What did the people do after hearing Jesus and experiencing His healing touch? (4:25)