

Neighborhood Life Group Guide

Matthew: The Temptation of Jesus

Pastor Mike Bickley

Matthew 4:1-11

January 21, 2018



Prayer: Pray for God to bless the upcoming GenReal Women's Conference on February 23-24 at Olathe Bible Church.

Read: Take a few minutes to read and mark up the following passage on your own.

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.""

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Discussion Questions

1. After reading Matthew 4:1-11, share some observations from the verses you've just read.

2. What from this week's sermon impacted you?

3. Why do you think Satan tempts Jesus in the wilderness? What was the devil hoping to gain?

4. In the first test, Satan tries to trick Jesus into using his power to ease his hunger (Matthew 4:1-4).

- Why does Jesus respond by quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3?
- Jesus says: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). How are you feeding your soul with truth from God's Word in your personal life?

5. In the second test, Satan tries to trick Jesus into forcing God's hand of protection (Matthew 4:5-6).

- Why does Jesus respond by quoting from Deuteronomy 6:16?
- Jesus says: "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test" (Matthew 4:7). In what ways do people today put God to the test?

6. In the third test, Satan offers Jesus a shortcut to glory bypassing the crucifixion (Matthew 4:7-10).

- Why does Jesus respond by quoting from Deuteronomy 6:13?
- What "shortcuts" do people today believe will bring them happiness?

7. How does God ultimately use Jesus' testing in Matthew 4:1-11 for greater good and glory?

8. What can we learn from Jesus' example about enduring tests, trials, and temptations?

Personal Reflection: Take a few minutes to reflect upon how you have been living out your faith for Jesus Christ this past week.

- ❖ **Word:** Have I read God's Word every day this week? What has God been teaching me?

- ❖ **Prayer:** Have I prayed to God every day this week? What have I prayed for?

- ❖ **Fellowship:** Have I gathered with other believers for fellowship and worship this week? How have I encouraged other Christians? How are other Christians encouraging me?

- ❖ **Confession:** Where am I struggling with sin, temptation, doubt, or hardship? Is there someone I need to seek forgiveness from? Is there someone I need to forgive?

- ❖ **Praise:** How have I seen God at work this week? What fruit have I seen in other people's lives?

- ❖ **Mission:** How have I been on mission this week? Who needs to hear the Gospel? Who can I invite to church? Who can I encourage or pray for this week?

Prayer: After you've spent some time in personal reflection, share one prayer request – a praise, a need, a confession, etc. Write down your group's prayer requests and commit to praying for them this week.