

# BA STUDY GUIDE: Matthew 1–4

## From Genealogies to Grit: Becoming Dangerous in the Light

### Overview

Matthew 1–4 sets the stage for the arrival of the King—not with thunder and spectacle, but with gritty obedience, obscure beginnings, and a wilderness showdown. These chapters highlight a God who chooses broken lineages, speaks through dreams, calls for repentance, and leads His Son into testing—not to break Him, but to prove Him.

### Main Themes for Men

- God uses broken men for His divine plan.
- Obedience is active, immediate, and often uncomfortable.
- Repentance is a daily discipline, not a one-time event.
- Scripture is your only sword against the lies of the enemy.
- The wilderness is preparation, not punishment.

### Chapter Breakdown

#### Matthew 1 – Bloodline and Brokenness

- Jesus' genealogy isn't about prestige—it's about promise.
- Includes men like David (adulterer), Judah (incest), and others who were far from perfect.
- Key truth: *God works through your mess, not around it.*

### Reflection

What's in your past that you think disqualifies you? Lay it at the foot of the cross. You're in the lineage of redemption now.

#### Matthew 2 – Obedience and Protection

- Herod is a tyrant protecting his throne.
- Joseph is a protector preserving God's will.
- Joseph obeys immediately, no hesitation, even when it's inconvenient or dangerous.

## Challenge for Men

Are you spiritually guarding your family? Are you obedient when God speaks, or do you delay?

## Matthew 3 – Wilderness Preaching & Repentance

- John the Baptist shows up raw, wild, and fearless.
- His entire ministry is about turning people away from sin, not making them feel good.
- Men don't need coddling—they need clarity. Repentance is a man's move.

## Confession Prompt

What sin are you managing that you should be murdering?

## Matthew 4 – Testing, Temptation, and the Word

- Jesus is led into the wilderness *by the Spirit*—testing is often divine training.
- Satan strikes with lies, half-truths, and manipulation.
- Jesus answers with Scripture—nothing else.

## Action Item

Commit to memorizing one verse this week (start with Matthew 4:4). You can't fight with a sword you don't carry.

Key Verse to Memorize

## Matthew 4:4

*“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

This is a man's verse. It reminds you your strength isn't in how much you lift, how hard you hustle, or how sharp you look—it's in how much of God's Word lives in you.

## God's Character Revealed

- He is **faithful** across generations (Matthew 1).
- He is **protector and guide** (Matthew 2).
- He is **holy and just** (Matthew 3).
- He is **empowering** and **present in testing** (Matthew 4).

## What This Confronts in Me

- My belief that God can't use someone like me.
- My tendency to delay obedience when it costs me comfort.
- My laziness in pursuing holiness and repentance.
- My failure to prepare spiritually for real battles.

## Today's Battle Plan

- Read Matthew 1–4 with fresh eyes. Don't skip the hard parts.
- Journal one thing God is calling you to repent of—and do it.
- Pick one action of obedience that you've been avoiding. Take the first step today.
- Share this study or your insight with another man. Discipleship starts with a conversation.

## Evangelism Tip

Ask another man: *"What's something you're struggling with that you don't talk about?"* When he answers—don't fix, don't preach—*relate*. Share how God met *you* in that place. That's evangelism with a backbone.

## Disciple-Making Tip

Invite someone into your spiritual journey—not as a teacher, but as a brother. Try this: "I'm reading the Bible daily, trying to be less of a poser and more of a disciple. Want to do this with me?"

No one wants to be preached at. Everyone wants to be fought for.

## Living This Out Daily

- Start your morning in the Word before you scroll, eat, or work.
- Pray out loud—even if it's messy. Especially if it's messy.
- Speak Scripture over your family, your work, your fear, your failure.
- Remember: the wilderness is where warriors are made.

## Final Word

You were not made for comfort. You were made for calling.

Jesus didn't skip the testing, and neither can you.

Open the Word. Let it cut. Let it heal. Then go lead like a man who's been sharpened by the Sword.