

THE GOOD NEWS BIBLE STUDY



BAPTISM & TEMPTATION

**MATTHEW 3-4:17; MARK 1:1-15;
LUKE 3:21-22 & 4:1-15**

This study examines the pivotal events that marked the commencement of Jesus' public ministry, focusing on His baptism, temptation, and the proclamation of His message.



THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

The Call to Repentance (Matthew 3:1-6; Mark 1:1-5)

- **Key Points:**

- John the Baptist appears in the wilderness, preaching repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- His message fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah, calling for a voice to prepare the way for the Lord.
- People from Jerusalem, all of Judea, and the region around the Jordan come to him, confessing their sins and being baptized in the Jordan River.

John's Bold Declaration (Matthew 3:7-12; Mark 1:6-8)

- **Key Points:**

- John confronts the Pharisees and Sadducees, calling them a "brood of vipers" for their hypocrisy.
- He emphasizes the importance of genuine repentance and warns of judgment.
- John distinguishes himself from the one who is coming after him (Jesus) who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.





THINK ABOUT

- **Repentance:** Why do you think repentance is such a central theme in John's preaching? How is this relevant for us today?
- **Hypocrisy in Religion:** What do John's words to the Pharisees and Sadducees teach us about the importance of sincerity in our faith?
- **Preparing the Way:** How can we prepare our own hearts and those around us for the work of Jesus in our lives?

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THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

The Baptism Event (Matthew 3:13–15; Mark 1:9)

- **Key Points:**
 - Jesus approaches John at the Jordan River to be baptized.
 - John initially resists, feeling unworthy, but Jesus insists, stating it's necessary to fulfill all righteousness.
 - This interaction emphasizes Jesus' identification with humanity and His mission of redemption.

The Divine Confirmation (Matthew 3:16–17; Mark 1:10–11; Luke 3:21–22)

- **Key Points:**
 - After Jesus is baptized, the heavens open, and the Spirit of God descends like a dove and alights on Him.
 - A voice from heaven proclaims: "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."
 - This moment of divine affirmation underscores Jesus' identity as the beloved Son of God and sets the stage for His public ministry.

THINK ABOUT

- **Jesus' Baptism:** Why do you think Jesus chose to be baptized, especially since He was without sin?
- **Identity of Jesus:** What significance does the divine affirmation at Jesus' baptism hold for understanding His identity and mission?
- **The Role of the Holy Spirit:** How does the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus at His baptism inform our understanding of His ministry and character?





THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

The Temptation in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)

- **Key Points:**

- Immediately after His baptism, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- He fasts for forty days and nights, and in His hunger, the devil presents three temptations: to turn stones to bread, to throw Himself from the temple, and to worship the devil in exchange for all the kingdoms of the world.
- Jesus responds to each temptation with Scripture, demonstrating His obedience to God and His dependence on His Father.

THINK ABOUT

- **Facing Temptation:** What can we learn from Jesus' responses to temptation about relying on Scripture in our own lives?
 - **Purpose of Temptation:** Why do you think it was important for Jesus to undergo temptation before beginning His ministry?
 - **Identity Under Attack:** How does the devil's challenge to Jesus' identity as the Son of God resonate with the challenges we face in our own faith journeys?
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THE BEGINNING OF JESUS' MINISTRY

The Proclamation of the Good News (Matthew 4:12-17; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:14-15)

- **Key Points:**

- After John is imprisoned, Jesus begins His public ministry in Galilee.
- He preaches the message of repentance and the kingdom of heaven: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
- Jesus performs miracles, teaching in synagogues and receiving fame throughout the region.



THE GOOD NEWS

BIBLE STUDY

4



THINK ABOUT

- **The Call to Repentance:** How can we actively participate in sharing the message of repentance and the kingdom of God in our communities?
 - **Response to Ministry:** How does Jesus' approach to His ministry challenge or inspire your own approach to sharing faith with others?
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LIFE APPLICATION

- **Personal Repentance:** Reflect on areas of your life where God may be calling you to repentance. Is there something you need to confess or turn away from?
 - **Embrace Baptism:** If you haven't been baptized, consider what that step could mean for you in your faith journey, and share your thoughts with someone you trust.
 - **Scripture as Armor:** Choose a verse or two that resonate with you from Jesus' responses to temptation. Commit them to memory to aid you in moments of temptation.
 - **Live Out Your Faith:** Look for opportunities this week to share the good news of Jesus' kingdom with friends, family, and colleagues.
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CONCLUSION

The events surrounding the baptism, temptation, and beginning of Jesus' ministry offer profound insights into His identity and mission. Through John's call for repentance, Jesus' public affirmation as the beloved Son of God, and His victory over temptation, we see a powerful foundation laid for the ministry that follows. May this study deepen your understanding of Jesus' mission and inspire you to participate actively in the work of His kingdom.

