

# GOD'S **LOVE** LETTER TO YOU



# **WEEK 4: THE “STUDYING” OF THE BIBLE**

**\*\*\*CHECK OUT THE STUDY RESOURCES AT THE END OF THIS LESSON!!!**

## **WELCOME**

If you had to teach a class on a random topic, what topic would you choose and why?

## **WORSHIP**

Take some time to pray and ask God to clear your mind, calm your heart, fix your focus, and give insight as you get ready to study a passage.

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## **WORD**

Read *Matthew 4:1-11*.

### **Step 1: Observe**

The goal is to figure out what is happening in Matthew 4:1-11.

1. Who are the characters in the passage?
2. When and where does the event in the passage take place?
3. What decisions are made in this passage?
4. What words or phrases are unique, repeated, or emphasized?
5. What emotions are being displayed by the characters in the passage?

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## **Step 2: Interpret**

The goal is to determine the purpose and meaning of Matthew 4:1-11.

1. What are some reasons the author might have included this passage in the book?
2. Are there Old Testament verses or references in this passage? If so, which Old Testament verses or references are used and why are they used?
3. How does this passage (it's themes, characters, places, etc.) align with the gospels, the New Testament, and the Bible as a whole?
4. What does the passage teach about God's character and grace?
5. What themes are present in this passage (examples of themes include love, salvation, forgiveness, humility, unity, etc.)?

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## **Step 3: Apply**

The goal is to reflect on how Matthew 4:1-11 impacts your life today.

1. Is there sin in the passage to be avoided?
2. Are there any promises in the passage to claim?
3. Are there any attitudes in the passage to adjust?
4. Is there a challenge in the passage to accept?
5. Is there an example in the passage to follow?

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## WITNESS

Give an update on the person that you want to invite to church and share Jesus with.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION & DEEPER STUDY FOR THIS WEEK

- Memorize **Deuteronomy 8:3**.
- Use the “Observe, Interpret, Apply” method to study 3 Bible stories (choose any Bible stories/passage/verses).

## RESOURCES

Here are some opportunities to continue your study of the Bible:

- Watch and/or listen to previous sermons from **Shepherd Church**.
- For your Bible reading plan, use the book, *Anchored: 365-Day Bible Reading Guide and Journal* by Dudley Rutherford (order from Pillars Café, **Lift Up Jesus**, Amazon, or wherever books are sold).
- Download the **YouVersion** Bible app to read or listen to the Bible, start a reading plan, and find daily devotionals.
- **Ozark Christian College** offers free online Bible courses.
- **Dallas Theological Seminary** offers free online Bible & theology courses.
- Through the **Silo Project**, **Eternity Bible College** offers free online courses.
- **Bible Gateway** is a good website to look up verses and key words from the Bible.
- If you want to learn more about how to study the Bible, check out the following book: *Living by the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the Bible* by Howard Hendricks and William Hendricks (order from Pillars Café, Amazon, or wherever books are sold).