

THE BURN — WEEK 6 READING PLAN

Matthew 4:1–11

The Wilderness: The True Son Tested

Theme:

Jesus enters the wilderness and succeeds where Israel failed.

Matthew shows us that Jesus is the **true and faithful Son**, reliving Israel's story and fulfilling it perfectly.

This week we will see how the **Old Testament wilderness story prepares us to understand Jesus' victory over temptation.**

DAY 1 — THE TESTING OF THE SON

Read

Matthew 4:1–2

Old Testament Connection

Deuteronomy 8:1–5

Moses reminds Israel that their **40 years in the wilderness were a time of testing.**

“Remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that He might humble you, testing you...”

— Deuteronomy 8:2

Jesus now enters **40 days of testing**, reliving Israel's story.

But where Israel grumbled and failed, Jesus remains faithful.

Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think God sometimes allows testing seasons in our lives?
2. What might God be forming in your character during difficult seasons?

DAY 2 — BREAD FROM HEAVEN

Read

Matthew 4:3–4

Old Testament Connection

Exodus 16:1–15

In the wilderness, Israel complained about hunger.
God provided manna from heaven.

Yet Israel still doubted His provision.

Jesus quotes **Deuteronomy 8:3** when resisting temptation:

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

Jesus shows that **trust in God's Word is more sustaining than physical provision.**

Reflection Questions

1. Where are you tempted to trust material security more than God's promises?
2. How does God's Word strengthen you during uncertainty?

DAY 3 — TESTING GOD

Read

Matthew 4:5–7

Old Testament Connection

Exodus 17:1–7

At Massah, Israel demanded proof that God was with them.

“Is the Lord among us or not?”
— Exodus 17:7

Jesus refuses to repeat Israel's mistake.

Instead He says:

“You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”

— Deuteronomy 6:16

Faith trusts God without demanding proof.

Reflection Questions

1. What does it look like to trust God instead of testing Him?
2. When have you experienced God’s faithfulness even when answers were unclear?

DAY 4 — WORSHIP ALONE

Read

Matthew 4:8–10

Old Testament Connection

Deuteronomy 6:10–15

Before Israel entered the Promised Land, Moses warned them not to forget God.

“You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him only.”

— Deuteronomy 6:13

Satan offers Jesus the kingdoms of the world without the cross.

But Jesus refuses.

True kingship comes through obedience.

Reflection Questions

1. What “shortcuts” to success or power tempt people today?
2. How does worshiping God alone reshape our priorities?

DAY 5 — THE TRUE SON

Read

Matthew 4:11

Old Testament Connection

Psalm 91

The enemy quoted this Psalm to tempt Jesus, but Jesus trusted the Father without manipulating Scripture.

Psalm 91 ultimately points to God's protection of the righteous.

Jesus' victory in the wilderness shows that **He is the faithful Son who fulfills God's purposes.**

Reflection Questions

1. What does Jesus' victory over temptation mean for your daily struggles?
2. How does knowing Jesus succeeded where humanity failed strengthen your faith?

Jesus vs Israel in the Wilderness

Israel in the Wilderness

Passed through the Red Sea

Led into the wilderness

40 years of testing

Complained about hunger

Tested God at Massah

Fell into idolatry repeatedly

Failed as God's son (Exodus 4:22)

Jesus in the Wilderness

Baptized in the Jordan

Led by the Spirit into the wilderness

40 days of testing

Trusted God for provision

Refused to test God

Refused to worship Satan

Faithful Son of God (Matthew 3:17)