

## BIBLE STUDY

### God pursues a love relationship

The relationship God wants to have with you will be real and personal. This is the witness of the entire Bible. He came to Adam and Eve in the garden. In love He fellowshiped with them, and they with Him. He came to Noah, Abraham, Moses and the prophets. God took the initiative in the OT to experience Him in a personal relationship of love. Jesus, likewise did this in the NT. He came to the disciples and chose them to experience His love and to be with Him. He came to Paul on the Damascus Road. In our natural human state, we do not seek God on our own initiative.

1. No one seeks God on his own initiative. (Read **Romans 3:10-12**)
  - a. How many people are righteous on their own? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How many people understand spiritual things on their own? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. How many people seek after God on their own? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. How many people do good on their own? \_\_\_\_\_

If we are to have a relationship with God or His Son, God will have to take the initiative. God draws us to Himself. (**John 6:44-45; 65**)

2. Who can come to Jesus without being drawn by the Father? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. What does a person do who listens to the Father and learns from Him? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What is the only way a person can come to the Father? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Jeremiah 31:3** and **Hosea 11:4**

The love that God focuses on in your life is an everlasting love. Because of that love, He has drawn you to Himself.

- a. How are you convinced that God loves you? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. How do you know God loves you? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Acts 9:1-19**

God came to Saul when Saul was opposing and fighting against God's son, Jesus Christ. Jesus came to Paul and revealed God's purpose and love for Him. This is also true in our lives. We do not choose Him. He chooses us, loves us, reveals His eternal purpose in our lives.

Read **John 15:16, 19** and **Matthew 16: 13-17**

3. Did Peter choose Jesus or did Jesus choose Peter? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Who revealed to Peter that Jesus was the promised Messiah? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Jesus was in essence saying to Peter, "You could not know or confess who I am unless \_\_\_\_\_"
  - c. Do you realize that God determined to love you and apart from that you could not have ever become a Christian?
  - d. How does that make you feel? \_\_\_\_\_

God had something in mind when He called you. He began the work in your life when He called you. God took the initiative for you to have a love relationship with Him. He began to open your understanding. He drew you unto Himself.

4. So what did you do in response (Choose one)
  - a. I responded to His invitation for a love relationship.
  - b. I rejected His invitation for a love relationship.

Respond to the following scriptures showing how God took the initiative:

**Deuteronomy 30:6** \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 10:22** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 15:16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Philippians 2:13** \_\_\_\_\_

**I John 3:16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Revelation 3:20** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **SUMMARY**

*In this love relationship, God always takes the initiative.*

*I do not choose Him. He chooses me, loves me, and reveals His eternal purposes for my life.*

*I cannot know the activity of God unless He takes the initiative to let me know.*