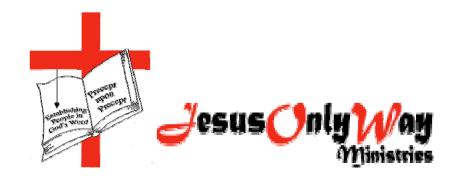
TOPICAL INTERACTIVE STUDY

WHAT DOES A GENUINE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD LOOK LIKE?



The Very Basics

What is Interactive Bible Study?

The Method

Interactive Bible Study shows you how to discover God's Truth for yourself. The concept behind the interactive study method is to get students personally, intimately involved with the subject, observing carefully for themselves. For example, if we were studying frogs using the method, we would begin by taking students to the pond to touch and observe real frogs before taking them to the library to study books about frogs.

We use a straightforward investigative approach to open the Bible and build the context for each statement it contains. That's where we find God's precepts—or principles—for life. Interactive study is the tool our students use to collect those precepts to build a God-glorifying, Bible-centered worldview with clear applications to live the abundant, victorious life in Christ.

There are three steps to Inductive Bible Study:

Observation

Specially designed skills for busy lives in an age of speed, noise and endless distractions, the interactive study method will help you slow down to focus on God's Word, and see what it really says.

Interpretation

Careful observation enables students to discover what the text means in its context. Since the Bible is its own best interpreter, the more accurate your observation, the greater will be your understanding of God's Word.

Application

The Creator and Author of life has shown us how to live a satisfying, eternally significant life. Intentional, disciplined observation and interpretation lead you to the profoundly applicable Truth of the Bible.

Without application Bible study can become "knowledge that puffs up" or doctrinally shallow anecdotes. Our goal is changing lives by connecting people with Christ.

What do you know about a genuine relationship with God?

Name and Correctional Facility:
Pre-test
1. When did God demonstrate His love to us?
2. What was our status when God demonstrated His love to us?
3. What does it mean that we have gone our own way? What is that called?
4. What did sin bring with it?
8. If Jesus were not raised from the dead, where are you in your sins? What about those who have died before you? What has happened to them?

Lesson One

> Read Romans 5:6-11

- > Circle the words we and us
- > Put a heart over the word *love*
- ➤ When did God demonstrate His love to us and how?
- What was our status when God demonstrated His love to us?
- What do you learn about the state of mankind when Christ died for them?
- > Does this raise these questions in your mind:
- Why are we helpless? What is a sinner? Whose enemy are we and why?
- > Read Romans 5:6-11 again
- Mark the key words *God* and *Jesus Christ* in a distinctive way
- What do you learn about God and Jesus Christ?
- In whose eyes do we need to be justified? Why?
- ➤ How are we justified?
- > What do we need to be saved from?
- ➤ What does this tell you about people who never have an authentic relationship with God?

Romans 5:6-11

6For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7**For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. **8**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **9**Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. **10**For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. **11**And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Questions to Ponder

Where do you stand in your relationship with God? Are you a sinner, ungodly, and an enemy of God? According to what you have read, is there hope for you? Can you have a genuine relationship with God? Have you received reconciliation and become God's friend---or does there seem to be something standing in your way?

Lesson Two

- > Read 1 John 3:4; 5:17; James 4:17; Romans 14:23; John 16:7-9; and Isaiah 53:6
- ➤ Circle every occurrence of the word *sin/iniquity*
- Who should we look to in order to find out what is "right" and "wrong"?
- ➤ What, according to these verses, do we call that which is "wrong"?
- ➤ If you say you believe God, according to Romans 14:23, how then will you live?
- > If you are going to live by faith, what is necessary for you to know?
- ➤ According to John 16:7-9 what does the Holy Spirit do?
- According to Isaiah 53:6 what have the sheep done wrong?
- ➤ Have you ever done that?
- ➤ What does it mean that we have gone our own way? What is that called?
- According to Isaiah 53:6, what has God done with "the iniquities of us all"?
- > Does that remind you of something you learned last week?

1 John 3:4 ⁴Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. **1 John 5:17** ¹⁷All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death. **James 4:17** ¹⁷Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin. **Romans 14:23** ²³But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin. **John 16:7-9** ⁷"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; **Isaiah 53:6** ⁶All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

Lesson Two Continued

- > Read Romans 3:9-10; 3:23; 5:12; Psalm 51:5; John 8:30-36
- > Circle the word *sin/iniquity* as you did previously
- What do you observe about the extent of sin from the passages in Romans?
- In Romans 5:12, do you know who the "one man" is through whom sin entered into the world?
- ➤ What did sin bring with it? And how widespread is sin?
- According to Romans 5:12, what entered the world because of sin?
- > Has death spread to all men? What then does this show us about all men?
- According to Psalm 51:5, in what condition does the psalmist say he was conceived?
- ➤ What does this say about every child born into this world?
- ➤ Who then, according to these verses, can claim to be without sin?
- ➤ Do you see yourself as a sinner? Why or why not?
- In John 8:30-36, what does Jesus say is true about the one who commits sin?
- > Do you see the truth of this verse manifested in society today? How?
- ➤ Who is the only one who can set the slave "free indeed"?
- > Where is truth to be found?

Romans 3:9-10 ⁹What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; ¹⁰as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; Romans 3:23 ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 5:12 ¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- Psalm 51:5 ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. John 8:30-36 ³⁰As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. ³¹So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. ³⁵"The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. ³⁶"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

Questions to Ponder

What does this mean to you and your relationship with God? Are there serious consequences to sin? Will a righteous God excuse your behavior if you blame it on our upbringing, your parents' failures, your place in society, or your environment? Can you deny that you are a sinner and hope to reach heaven?

Lesson Three

- > Read John 8:18-24; and verse 44
- Mark every reference to sin/sins; the Jews/they/them/you; and Jesus in a distinctive way
- ➤ What did you learn about Jesus Christ?
- ➤ What did you learn about the Jews/Pharisees?
- ➤ What do the Pharisees have to believe in order not to die in their sins?
- ➤ If that is true for them, do you think it would be true for you as well?

John 8:18-24 ¹⁸"I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me." ¹⁹So they were saying to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also." ²⁰These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come. ²¹Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come." ²²So he Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" ²³And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. ²⁴"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." **John 8:44** ⁴⁴"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Lesson Three Continued

- Read Numbers 32:23; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8; Revelation 20:14; Romans 6:23
- ➤ Mark every reference to *sin/those who commit sin/synonyms for sin* in a distinctive way
- ➤ What does Numbers 32:23 say about sin?
- ➤ Have you ever tried to hide something you did that you know you should not have done?
- ➤ What would God call what you have done?
- From what you see in this verse, do you think anyone can hide their sin from God?
- ➤ What synonym(s) for sin do you see in Galatians 5:19-21?
- ➤ What specific sins are listed in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21, and Revelation 21:8?
- ➤ Do you see any of these sins in the world today? How? Where? Are they called "sin" by the world's definition?
- ➤ What consequences do you see for sin in these passages?
- ➤ What contrast do you see in 1 Corinthians 6:11? How did this change occur?
- > Do you see that there is a hope for those who are "slaves to sin"?
- According to Revelation 20:14, what is the "second death"?
- ➤ What does Romans 6:23 describe as being the "wages" or payment for sin?
- ➤ What kind of death do you think this verse is referring to? Do you think there's any relationship between the "wrath of God" and the lake of fire, the second death?

Numbers 32:23 ²³"But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 9Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. Galatians 5:19-21 ¹⁹Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **Revelation 21:8** 8"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." Romans **6:23** ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Questions to Ponder

What have you learned about sin in your life and how it affects your relationship with God? What will happen to you should you dies in your sins? So you think God is serious about sin and its consequences?

Lesson Four

> Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-10

- ➤ Mark every occurrence of the word *gospel/which/what/and synonyms* in a distinctive way
- Circle every reference to the Corinthians and Jesus Christ/pronouns in a distinctive way
- ➤ What do you learn from marking all the references to the Corinthians and the gospel?
- > What was the message of the gospel that Paul delivered?
- What are its main points?
- > Did you notice the repeated phrase? Mark this phrase in a distinctive way.
- ➤ What two things happened "according to the Scriptures"?
- > What events took place that proved that these two things actually occurred?
- Last week, when you looked at Romans 6:23, what did you learn about sin?
- > Who paid for your sins? How was the debt paid?

1 Corinthians 15:1-10 ¹Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ³and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. ¹For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹¹But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

Lesson Four Continued

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
- ➤ Mark every reference to *Christ/pronouns*
- > Circle every occurrence of the words we and us
- What did Christ do, according to this passage? Who did He do it for?
- ➤ Why did Jesus become sin on our behalf?
- ➤ What did you learn from marking the words we and us?
- Do you think this can pertain to you?
- ➤ What changes happen when we are in Christ?
- > Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 again
- Mark every occurrence to reconciliation in a distinctive way
- > What did you learn from marking these references to reconciliation?
- ➤ Who was reconciled to whom? Who initiated it? How was it done? What was the result?
- ➤ Why is it important that God not count your trespasses against you?
- ➤ What is the "ministry of reconciliation"?
- > Why do you think there would be such an urgency to tell others to be reconciled to God? Do you find this difficult to do?

Corinthians 5:14-21 ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. ¹⁶Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. ¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Questions to Ponder

What are you going to do with the knowledge you have gained these past four weeks? Will you take God at His Word and believe Him? Are you willing to have a genuine change of mind regarding your thoughts about God and about yourself? Do you believe you are a sinner? Will you in faith take God at His Word and believe that Jesus' death paid for all your sins?

Lesson Five

- > Read Romans 5:12 and Mathew 1:18-23
- ➤ Mark every reference to *Jesus Christ/pronouns/synonyms*
- ➤ How did death spread to all men? Through whom did it spread?
- ➤ How did Mary conceive or get pregnant with Jesus?
- > Would Jesus have sin with Him? Was He born of man, the sperm of a man? Who was the father of Jesus Christ?
- ➤ What will Jesus do? Could He do that if He were a sinner?

Romans 5:12 ¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- Matthew 1:18-23 ¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. ²⁰But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He Ewill save His people from their sins." ²²Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³" BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH ©CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

> Read Hebrews 2:14-15

- Mark every reference to Christ in the same way as before
- ➤ What are the two reasons Jesus became a man—a human being made of flesh and blood?
- > Based on previous study, who is in slavery?
- ➤ Why is there a fear of death? What makes death so dreadful?
- > Isn't it what awaits you if our sins are not paid for in full?

Hebrews 2:14-15 ¹⁴Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

Lesson Five Continued

- > Read Hebrews 10:4-10 and John 1:29
- Mark every refer to Jesus Christ/pronoun and sin
- ➤ What did you learn about Jesus Christ and His reason for coming into the world?
- What did Jesus do that the animal sacrifices could not do? How did He do it?
- ➤ How are you sanctified?
- ➤ What happens to animal sacrifices once Jesus Christ has come? Why?
- ➤ How does the Hebrews passage fit with what John the Baptist said about Jesus?

Hebrews 10:4-10 ⁴For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME; ⁶IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE. ⁷"THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.'" ⁸After saying above, "SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE in them" (which are offered according to the Law), ⁹then He said, "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL." He takes away the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. **John 1:29** ²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

- > Read 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 2:2; Romans 4:25
- ➤ Mark every reference to *Christ/pronouns*
- ➤ What was the propitiation for? Who was it for?
- What debt did Jesus pay and how did He do it?
- According to Romans 4:25, why was Jesus delivered over? Why was Jesus raised?
- ➤ Was your debt paid? What is the proof?

2 Corinthians 5:21 ²¹He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **1 John 2:2** ²and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. **Romans 4:25** ²⁵He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

Lesson Six

- > Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19
- Mark every reference to Jesus Christ's resurrection and Jesus Christ
- > If Jesus were not raised from the dead, where are you in your sins?
- ➤ What about those who have died before you? What has happened to them?
- > If Jesus was not raised, why would you---of all people---be most pitiable?

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 ¹²Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

> Read John 11:25-26

- ➤ Mark the word resurrection
- ➤ How does Jesus describe Himself?
- ➤ What is your guarantee if you believe on Him?
- ➤ If Jesus didn't rise from the dead after promising to do so, what does that make Jesus Christ?
- According to 1 Corinthians 15:1-10 is there proof that Christ was raised from the dead? What was it?

John 11:25-26 ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Lesson Six Continued

- > Read Romans 10:1-13
- Mark every reference to *righteousness* and *Jesus Christ* in a distinctive way
- ➤ What are the two kinds of righteousness contrasted in Romans 10:1-6?
- ➤ Which kind of righteousness are most people trying to have?
- What are some of the things they do to get it? What about you?

Romans 10:1-13 ¹Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. ²For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. ³For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. ⁴For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. ⁵For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness. ⁶But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Christ down), 7 or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 9that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

- > Read Ephesians 2:8-9
- ➤ How does Ephesians 2:8-9 parallel what is said in Romans 10?
- According to Romans 10, what must a person do to be saved?
- ➤ What must they believe? What must they confess?
- > What will such belief and confession save you from?
- ➤ If Jesus is Lord—If He is God—what should He have authority over in your life?

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

What do you know about a genuine relationship with God?

Name and Correctional Facility:
Post-test
When did God demonstrate His love to us?
2. What was our status when God demonstrated His love to us?
3. What does it mean that we have gone our own way? What is that called?
4. What did sin bring with it?
5. Can we claim to be without sin?
6. Who is the one who can set the sinner "free"?
7. List some specific sins that are in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; and Revelation 21:8?
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NOTES

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