To Know God

Lesson 2, 2nd Quarter, April 4–April 10, 2026

Sabbath Afternoon April 4

Memory Text:

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." KJV — John 17:3

"This is life eternal," Christ said, "that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." John 17:3. Why is it that we do not realize the value of this knowledge? Why are not these precious truths growing in our hearts, trembling upon our lips, and spreading our whole being? COL 133.3

"In giving us His word, God has put us in possession of every truth essential for our salvation. Thousands have gone down from these walls of life, yet there is no diminishing of the supply. Thousands have set the Lord before them, and by beholding have been changed into the same image. They have found rest within the shadow of his church, saying with Christ in their hearts and what they are in Christ. But these searchers have not exhausted these grand and holy themes. Thousands more have repeated the same experience, disembarking the repentant salvation, as the life of Christ and the character of His mission are dwelt upon, rays of light will shine forth more distinctly and more powerfully than before, and the soul will exclaim, with the same joy and astonishment as those who has yet been unfolded. The subject is inexhaustible. The study of the incarnation of Christ, His atoning sacrifice and mediatorial work, will employ the mind of the diligent student as long as time shall last, and looking to heaven with its unsumbered years he will exclaim, "Great is the mystery of godliness." COL 133.4

"In eternity we shall learn that which, had we received the enlightenment it was possible to obtain here, would have opened our understanding. The themes of redemption will employ the hearts and minds and tongues of the redeemed through the everlasting ages. They will understand the truths spoken by the patriarchs and prophets to this disciples, but which they did not have faith to grasp. Forever and forever new views of the perfection and glory of Christ will appear. Through endless ages will the faithful Householder bring forth from His treasure things new and old." COL 134.1

Sunday April 5

A Clearer Picture of God

Read Genesis 31:1–5. What was Satan's goal in his conversation with Eve? What lies did he tell her about God's character?

"Satan, who had incited rebellion in heaven, desired to bring the inhabitants of the earth to unite in his warfare against God. Adam and Eve had been perfectly happy in obedience to the law of God—a constant testimony against the claim Satan had put in heaven that God's law was oppressive. Satan determined to cause their fall, that he might possess the earth and here establish his kingdom in opposition to the Most High." PP 51.1

"He declared that they would become like God, possessing greater wisdom than before, and being capable of a higher state of existence. Eve yielded to temptation; and through her influence, Adam was led into transgression. The woman was the weaker person, but God did not mean that she should be distrusted their Creator, and imagined that he was restricting their liberty, and that they might obtain greater wisdom and exaltation by transgressing his law." GC88.553.1

The fruit, of course, appealed to her, but she was tempted by the idea of having the opportunity to become wise. Satan had led her to see what is to be sought in a wrong position in which God had placed Lucifer must have honestly believed that he would be as God if the angels in Heaven and the men on earth would but take orders from him. 1T 297.2

And so we see that the Devil deceived Eve on the same grounds he deceived himself and his angels, the only difference being that he caused Eve to eat of the fruit which he himself and his angels would not eat. Consequently, Eve sinned against her physical being, too, by taking into it something that was not created for food, and consequently the died. But Satan and his angels still live.

"The knowledge which God did not want our first parents to have was a knowledge of guilt. And when they accepted the assertions of Satan, which were false, disobedience and transgression were introduced into our world. This disobedience to God's express command, this belief of Satan's lie, brought into the human family all the misery and woe which Satan has continued to work out in the history of Eden. He has worked vigilantly, that man might accept his assertions as proof against God. He has worked against Christ in his efforts to restore the image of God in man, and imperil in his soul the similitude of God." 1SM 214.2

Monday April 6

God is Holy

How do the following verses describe God: Leviticus 20:26, 1 Samuel 2:2, Isaiah 57:15, and Ezekiel 38:23?

"I am instructed to say to students, In your search for knowledge climb higher than the standard set by the world; follow where Jesus has led the way. And to teachers I would say, Beware how you sow the seeds of unbelief and human hearts and minds. Observe yourselves from all littleness of the heart and spirit. The crowning glory of Christ's attributes is His holiness. The angels bow before Him in reverential fear, saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty" Revelation 4:8. He is declared to be glorious in His holiness. Study the character of God. By beholding Christ, by seeking Him in faith and prayer, you may become like Him." CT 402.2

"Those who experience the sanctification of the Bible will manifest a spirit of humility. Like Moses, they have had a view of the awful majesty of holiness, and they see their own unworthiness in contrast with the purity and righteousness of the infinite One. GC 470.2

"The prophet Daniel was an example of true sanctification. His long life was filled up with noble deeds. He was a statesman, a man of prayer, and a prophet. He was a man of faith, and instead of claiming to be pure and holy, this honored prophet identified himself with the really sinful of Israel as he pleaded before God in behalf of his people. "We do not present our supplications before Thee for our righteousness, but for Thy great mercies." We have sinned, we have done wickedly." He confessed the sins of his people, and confessing them by sin and the sin of his people, he set them all at a later time the Son of God appeared, to give him instruction, Daniel says: "My comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength." Dan. 10:8. 9 MR 70.2

"When job heard the voice of the Lord out of the whirlwind, he exclaimed: "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes," Job 42:6. It was when Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord, and heard the seraphim crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts," that he cried, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Isaiah 6:1-5. Christ is the Lord of hosts. Paul says, "Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." 1 Corinthians 12:4, margin. Ephesians 3:18. It was the believed John, who learned on Jesus breast and beheld His glory, that fell as one dead before the feet of the angel. Revelation 1:17. GC 471.1

"There can be no self-exaltation, no boastful claim to freedom from sin, on the part of those who walk in the shadow of Calvary's cross. They feel that it was their sin which caused the agony that broke the heart of the Son of God, and this thought will lead them to self-abasement. Those who live nearest to the divine model will clearly see their sinfulness, humility, and their only hope is in the merit of a crucified and risen Saviour." GC 471.2

Tuesday April 7

God is Love

"God is love." 1 John 4:16. His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be. The high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose ways are everlasting," changeth not. With him is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Isaiah 57:15; Malakiah 3:6, James 1:17. PP 33.1

"Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love. The sovereignty of God consists in His being able to say, "Nevertheless I love thee." PP 33.2

"It is not because of inherent power that year by year the earth produces her bounties and continues her motion round the sun. The hand of God guides the planets and keeps them in position in their orderly march through the heavens. It is through His power that summer and winter, seedtime and harvest, day and night follow each other in their regular succession. It is by His power that the seasons are made to succeed one another, and the flowers, fruits, and grains are made to ripen. Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love. The sovereignty of God consists in His being able to say, "Nevertheless I love thee." PP 33.2

"The children of God are those who are partakers of His nature. It is not earthly rank, nor birth, nor nationality, nor religious privilege, which proves that we are members of the family of God; it is love, love manifested by the possessor for his fellow-beings, even those who have wronged him. Those who will respond to kindness; while they may give hate for hate, they will also give love for love. But it is only love that will melt the heart of man. It is the love of God, revealed in the life and shed abroad to the soul, is do good hoping for nothing again, is the insignia of the royalty of heaven, the sure token by which the children of the Highest are to be recognized. MH 36.2

"The history of the great conflict between good and evil, from the time it first began in heaven to the close of the world, is a history of jealousy and the total eradication of sin, is also a demonstration of God's unchanging love." PP 33.4

"The gift of Christ reveals the Father's heart. It testifies that the thoughts of God toward us are "thoughts of peace, and not of evil," Jeremiah 29:11. It declares that while God's hatred of sin is as strong as death, His love for the sinner is stronger than death. Having undertaken our redemption, He will spare nothing, however dear, which is necessary to the completion of His work. No truth essential to our salvation is withheld, no miracle of mercy is neglected, no divine agency is left unemployed. Never has a gift been given, never can a gift be given, more abundantly than God's power is those He seeks to save. Having collected the riches of the universe, and laid open the treasures of infinite power, he gives them all into the hands of Christ, and says, All these are Mine. I use these gifts to convince him that there is no love greater than Mine in earth or heaven. His greatest happiness he found in saving Me. GW 57.1

"At the cross of Calvary, love and selfishness stood face to face. Here was their crowning manifestation. Christ had lived only to comfort and bless, and in putting Him to death, Satan manifested the malignity of his hatred against God. He made it evident that the real purpose of his rebellion was to dethrone God, and to destroy Him through whom the love of God was shown." DA 57.2

"When the fulness of time came, the windows of heaven were opened, and upon the world was poured a flood of heavenly grace. God made to our world the wonderful gift of his only begotten Son. In the light of this act, it could never be said by the inhabitants of other worlds that God could have done more for the inhabitants of this world. The angels had witnessed the fall of man and the effects all computation. To save a fallen race he poured forth the whole treasure of heaven in one gift." RH January 3, 1907, par. 11

Wednesday April 8

God in creation

Compare the descriptions of God in Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 2:7. What do you notice?

"The Father and the Son engaged in the mighty, wondrous work they had contemplated—of creating the world. The earth came forth from the hand of the Creator exceedingly beautiful. There were mountains and hills and plains, and the goodly proportions were more than human mind could frame. The earth was not one extensive plain, but the monotony of the scenery was broken by hills and mountains, which were not placed there to mar the landscape, but to add to its beauty. The hills were not heaped up in confusion, but they lay beneath the surface, answering as bones to the earth. The waters were regularly dispersed. The hills, mountains, and very beautiful plains were adorned with plants and flowers; and tall, majestic trees of every description, which were many times larger and much more beautiful than trees now are. The air was pure and healthful, and the earth seemed like a noble palace. Angels behold and rejoiced at the wonderful and beautiful works of God. 1SP 47.2

"After the earth was created, and the beasts upon it, the Father and Son carried out their purpose, which was designed before the fall of Satan, to make man in their own image. They had wrought together in the creation of the earth and every living thin upon it. And now God said to His Son, "Let us make man in our image." As Adam came forth from the hand of his Creator he was of noble height and of beautiful symmetry. He was more than twice as tall as men now living upon the earth, and was well proportioned. His features were perfect and beautiful.... Eve was not quite so tall as Adam. Her head reached a little above his shoulders. She, too, was noble, perfect in symmetry, and very beautiful." LHU 41.3

Thursday April 9

Immanuel, God With Us

In Matthew 1:23, a specific name is given to Jesus. Why is this so significant in understanding God's character? Read Matthew 28:20, focusing on the last part of the verse. Compare these two verses. What do you notice?

"His name shall be called Immanuel, ... God with us." "The light of the knowledge of the glory of God" is seen "in the face of Jesus Christ." From the days of eternity the Lord Jesus Christ was one with the Father. He was "the image of God," the image of His greatness and majesty, "the outshining of His glory," it was to manifest this glory that He came to our world. To this sin-darkened earth He came to reveal the light of God's love,—to be "God with us." Therefore it was prophesied of Him, "His name shall be called Immanuel." DA 19.1

"By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God,—God's thought made audible. In His prayer for His disciples He says, "I have declared unto them Thy name," ... "Thy mercies, and truth, and goodness, and abundant in goodness and truth," "that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them." But not alone for His disciples was Christ to reveal the love of God. Our little world is the lesson-book of the universe. God's wonderful purpose of grace, the mystery of redeeming love, is the theme into which "angels desire to look," and it will be the theme of their study for ever and ever. Unfallen beings and unfallen beings will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song. It will be seen that the mystery in the face of Jesus is the mystery of self-sacrificing love. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven; that the love which constrains not for self, but seeks to do for others, and to find in God, and that in the meek and lowly Lamb, is manifested the character of Him who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto." DA 19.2

"Christ's visible presence was about to be withdrawn from the disciples, but a new endowment of power was to be theirs. The Holy Spirit was to be given them in its fullness, sealing them for their work." AA 30.2

"The Saviour knew that no argument, however logical, would melt hard hearts or break through the crust of worldliness and selfishness. He knew that His disciples must receive the heavenly endowment; the gospel would be effective only as it was proclaimed by hearts made warm and lips made eloquent by a living knowledge of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. The work committed to the disciples would require great efficiency; for the tide of evil can deep and strong against them. A vigilant, determined leader was in command of the forces of darkness, and the followers of Christ could battle for the right only through the help that God, by His Spirit, would give them." AA 31.1

Friday April 10

Further Thought

"With strong, hopeful words the Saviour ended His instruction. Then He poured out the burden of His soul in prayer for His disciples. He said, "I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They have given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou gave Him. And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." DA 680.2

"Christ had finished the work that was given Him to do. He had glorified God on the earth. He had manifested the Father's name. He had gathered out those who were to continue His work among men. And He said, "I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as We are." "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; that they all may be one; ... I in them: and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me." DA 680.3

"Thus in the language of one who has done authority, Christ gives His elect church into the Father's arms. As a concerned shepherd prays in intercedes for his people. As a faithful shepherd He gathers His flock under the shadow of the Almighty, in the strong and sure refuge. For Him there waits the last battle with Satan, and He goes forth to meet it." DA 680.4