

Sabbath School Panel — Second Quarter 2026

Lesson 2 (Sunday)

A Clearer Picture of God

Memory Text

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

Eternal life is defined not merely as duration, but as **relationship**—to *know* God.

Core Statement for Examination

What the world is missing is a true knowledge of God’s character.

This statement frames the entire discussion.

Knowing Someone vs. Knowing *About* Someone

Consider a common human experience:

- When people **criticize someone they do not know**, every negative action feels offensive.
 - *“How dare they?”*
 - Righteous indignation comes easily.
- When the same action comes from someone **we know well**, someone whose intentions we trust, our response changes:
 - *“They must have had a reason.”*
 - *“Let’s talk and find out what’s going on.”*

The difference is not the action—it is the **relationship**.

This same dynamic is at work in how people respond to God.

Israel at the Red Sea: A Case Study in Misjudging God

Exodus 14:10–11

When Israel found themselves trapped between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army, their response was revealing.

They did not say:

- *"Why would God bring us this far if He could not deliver us?"*

Instead, they said:

- *"Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness?"*

They questioned:

- God's **motives**
- Moses' **intentions**

This is what happens when people **do not truly know God**—His actions are interpreted through fear rather than trust.

A Necessary Conclusion

We must know God.

Not culturally.

Not secondhand.

Not by reputation alone.

But personally.

A Sobering Pivot: The Voice That Claims to Know God

Jesus makes a striking statement in **John 8:44**, calling Satan:

- *"a liar"*

- “the father of lies”
- the **originator** of deception

Yet Scripture adds an unsettling detail.

Satan’s Former Position

Ezekiel 28:14–16 describes a being who:

- was a **cherub**
- walked “in the midst of the stones of fire”
- existed in the **presence of God**

This creates a dangerous illusion:

If Satan was in God’s presence, could he not claim to know God—and therefore speak authoritatively about Him?

This is how deception gains credibility.

How Do We Resist Such Power?

The answer is simple—but not easy:

We must know God for ourselves.

If we do not:

- we remain vulnerable to voices that *claim* knowledge
- we live at the mercy of interpretations shaped by fear, bitterness, or rebellion

Secondhand faith is never strong enough to withstand direct accusation.

A Cautionary Word for Believers

This truth cuts both ways.

Those who **do know God**, or who once had a close relationship with Him, must be careful.

In seasons of:

- frustration
- disappointment
- pain

we may be tempted to speak carelessly.

And in doing so, we may:

- unintentionally **misrepresent God**
 - shape the view of God for those who do not yet know Him
-

Final Reflection

The world does not primarily reject God because of evidence.

It rejects Him because of **misunderstood character**.

And character can only be known through **relationship**.

To know God truly is to see Him clearly.

That is why Jesus prayed:

“This is life eternal, that they might know Thee.”