

A photograph of a misty forest with tall, thin trees and a path covered in red leaves. The text is overlaid on the image.

Enoch's Walk With God

Sabbath Bible Lessons

Senior Division

April-June 2003

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Sabbath Bible Lessons, a daily study program, is based solely on the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy without additional comments. The quotations are as brief as possible to provide concise, direct thoughts. Brackets [] are supplied in some cases to ensure clarity, proper context, and smooth readability. Further study in the source materials is strongly recommended.

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Foreword

It is with great joy that we await the second coming of Christ. His appearing has been the desire of many generations. All those who have awaited this event have had to prepare their characters so that they may abide in a universe free from sin. We too are called to prepare ourselves, and for this purpose God has left for us an example of a mortal man who was translated without seeing death.

Enoch was a man who walked with God. "Enoch's life and character, which were so holy that he was translated to heaven without seeing death, represent what the lives and characters of all must be, if, like Enoch, they are to be translated when Christ shall come. His life was what the life of every individual may be if he closely connects with God" (*The Review and Herald*, September 1, 1885).

How wonderful that God has left this example for us, written in His holy Word. As we studied in the last quarterly, many men suffered and went through great hardships so that you and I would have access to these Scriptures. Now let us use them and study the life of Enoch, a type of the remnant.

In this lesson we will cover not only the history of Enoch's life, but how this relates to our own character development in these last days of earth's history. We will compare the walk, desire, talk, character, dwelling, conversation, mind and faith of Enoch with our own. May God grant us the wisdom to understand His will for us.

The brethren of the GC Sabbath School Department

To subscribe to the *Electronic Sabbath School News*, send your request to essn@sdarm.org. or write to *Sabbath Bible Lessons*, PO Box 7240, Roanoke, VA 24019-0240, USA.

First Sabbath Offering

Madrid, Spain

Spain is a kingdom with deep history in the reformation of the sixteenth century and the Reform Movement as well. A country entrenched in Catholic dogma, Spain has had a history of brutal suppression to any who oppose the Catholic teachings. When the Reform Movement began its work in this country there was no religious liberty. The first meetings were held in a health food store, behind locked doors. It was through this work of health reform that the gospel was able to be preached. The baptism of those first souls had to be done in secret, often in secluded places as early as 4:30 in the morning.

When religious liberty was granted to the people of Spain, the work was able to be registered and at that time was centered in the city of Barcelona.

But the work had never truly penetrated the capital city of Madrid. Thanks to the grace of the Lord, by His providence the work is now being established here. A large group of believers is meeting regularly, but they have no chapel of their own. This month we are asking you to give generously to the work in Madrid so that a lighthouse may be established here in the very center of this Catholic country.

Spain is one of the “Catholic lands of Europe” where, according to the Spirit of Prophecy, “God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness, revealing clearly to an apostate world the transforming power of obedience to His law” (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 188, 189).

PROJECT 023

Your brethren and sisters from Spain



VITAL STATISTICS

- **Area:** 504,750 sq km (195,364 sq mi)
- **Population:** 40,037,995 (2002)
- **Capital:** Madrid (pop. 2,905,100)
- **Literacy Rate:** 97% (2002)
- **Languages:** Castilian Spanish (official), Catalan, Galician, Basque
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 99%

ECONOMY

- **Monetary Unit:** Peseta; Euro
- **GDP/PPP:** \$720.8 billion; \$18,000 per capita (2000 est.)
- **Inflation:** 3.4% (2000 est.)
- **Major Trading Partners:** European Union, United States, Latin America, Japan

Enoch's Walk With God

“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death . . . because . . . he had this testimony, that he pleased God” (Hebrews 11:5).

“‘Enoch walked with God; and he was not; for God took him.’ And when God takes the members of His church to heaven, it will be because they have walked with Him here on this earth.”—*The Signs of the Times*, June 19, 1901.

Suggested Reading: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 84–89.

Sunday

March 30

1. WHO WAS ENOCH?

- a. **In the biblical history of mankind, who was Enoch? Genesis 5:18, 24; Luke 3:37, 38.**

“Enoch was a holy man. He served God with singleness of heart.”—*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, p. 60.

- b. **How long before the birth of Noah did Enoch live? Genesis 5:1–23.**

- c. **Did Enoch have the same nature as we have? Romans 3:23. What was the difference in his life? Galatians 5:5.**

“It was through constant conflict and simple faith that Enoch walked with God. You may all do the same.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 543.

- d. **Why is it so important that we study the life of Enoch? Hebrews 11:1, 2, 6.**

“Enoch’s life and character, which were so holy that he was translated to heaven without seeing death, represent what the lives and characters of all must be, if, like Enoch, they are to be translated when Christ shall come. His life was what the life of every individual may be if he closely connects with God.”—*The Review and Herald*, September 1, 1885.

2. THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF ENOCH'S LIFE

- a. Since we know that Enoch lived close to the time of Noah, what were the surrounding physical and moral conditions around him? Genesis 6:5.

“We should remember that Enoch was surrounded by unholy influences. The society around him was so depraved that God brought a flood of waters on the world to destroy its inhabitants for their corruption.”—*The Signs of the Times*, November 11, 1886.

- b. How does this description of the state of society during the life of Enoch parallel with our own time? Matthew 24:37; 2 Timothy 3:1–5.

“As in the world before the Flood, iniquity will prevail. Following the promptings of their corrupt hearts and the teachings of a deceptive philosophy, men will rebel against the authority of Heaven.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 89.

- c. Was it an easy time for Enoch to be a “preacher of righteousness”? Will it be for us? 2 Timothy 3:12; 2 Peter 3:3; John 15:19, 20.

“If the Christian thrives and progresses at all, he must do so amid strangers to God, amid scoffing, subject to ridicule; . . . although surrounded by corrupting influences, . . . they walk with God, deriving strength and grace from Him to withstand the moral pollution surrounding them.”—*The Review and Herald*, January 2, 1879.

- d. What can we always determine to do? Psalm 40:9; 2 Timothy 4:2.

“Like Enoch [God’s people] will be fitting for translation to Heaven. While they endeavor to instruct and warn the world, they will not conform to the spirit and customs of unbelievers, but will condemn them by their holy conversation and godly example.”—*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 59.

3. ENOCH'S EXPERIENCE

- a. How is Enoch described for the first 65 years of his life? Genesis 5:21.

“Of Enoch it is written that he lived sixty-five years, and begat a son. . . . During these earlier years Enoch had loved and feared God and had kept His commandments. He was one of the holy line, the preservers of the true faith, the progenitors of the promised seed. From the lips of Adam he had learned the dark story of the Fall, and the cheering one of God’s grace as seen in the promise; and he relied upon the Redeemer to come.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 84.

- b. How is Enoch described for the next 300 years? Genesis 5:22; Hebrews 11:5.

“After the birth of his first son, Enoch reached a higher experience; he was drawn into a closer relationship with God.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 84.

“For three hundred years Enoch had been seeking purity of heart, that he might be in harmony with heaven. For three centuries he had walked with God. Day by day he had longed for a closer union; nearer and nearer had grown the communion, until God took him to Himself.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 53.

- c. What three types of experience are revealed in the Scriptures? Daniel 12:10; Matthew 7:21–23; Hebrews 12:14. To which group do you belong? 2 Corinthians 13:5.

“There are many who are surrounded with clouds of darkness. They try to do something themselves, some great and good work which will win the favor of God and make them happy, but they neglect the very work that they should do. But the path of happiness is the path of obedience. We should in no case blind our eyes to our true condition, and then pray in a loose, general manner. . . . Says the apostle, ‘Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.’ Inquire into the character of your thoughts, purposes, temper, words, and deeds. Compare your experience with the declarations of Scripture, and see whether you are gathering with Christ or scattering abroad. See if your life testifies that you are in the faith.”—*The Signs of the Times*, May 15, 1884.

4. OUR GREATEST DESIRE

- a. **What was Enoch deeply desiring after the birth of his son? Matthew 5:6, 8, 48.**

“Let us realize the weakness of humanity, and see where man fails in his self-sufficiency. We shall then be filled with a desire to be just what God desires us to be—pure, noble, sanctified. We shall hunger and thirst after the righteousness of Christ. To be like God will be the one desire of the soul.

“This is the desire that filled Enoch’s heart. And we read that he walked with God. He studied the character of God to a purpose. He did not mark out his own course, or set up his own will. . . . He strove to conform himself to the divine likeness.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 1, p. 1087.

- b. **What does it mean “to have a deeper walk with God”? Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 7:1.**

“Enoch kept the Lord ever before him, and the inspired Word says that he ‘walked with God.’ He made Christ his constant companion. He was in the world, and performed his duties to the world; but he was ever under the influence of Jesus. He reflected Christ’s character, exhibiting the same qualities in goodness, mercy, tender compassion, sympathy, forbearance, meekness, humility, and love. His association with Christ day by day transformed him into the image of Him with whom he was so intimately connected. Day by day he was growing away from his own way into Christ’s way, the heavenly, the divine, in his thoughts and feelings. . . . His was a constant growth and he had fellowship with the Father and the Son. This is genuine sanctification.”—*The Review and Herald*, April 28, 1891.

“When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 312.

5. WHY THE CHANGE?

- a. **What motivated the change in Enoch’s life? Genesis 5:21; Proverbs 22:6; John 3:16.**

“After the birth of his first son, [Enoch] reached a higher experience; he was drawn into closer relationship with God. As he saw the child’s love for its father, its simple trust in his protection; as he felt the deep yearning tenderness of his own heart for that firstborn son, he learned a precious lesson of the wonderful love of God to man in the gift of His Son, and the confidence which the children of God may repose in their heavenly Father. The infinite, unfathomable love of God through Christ became the subject of his meditations day and night.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 51.

- b. **What will motivate us to long for a deeper experience with Christ? Ephesians 3:17–19; 2 Peter 3:10–14.**

“The days in which we live are eventful and full of peril. The signs of the coming of the end are thickening around us, and events are to come to pass that will be of a more terrible character than any the world has yet witnessed. ‘For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them.’ But to those who have the light of truth, it has been written. . . . ‘Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.’”—*The Review and Herald*, November 22, 1892.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Who was Enoch and why is his life important to you?**
2. **How would you describe the time in which Enoch lived as compared to the time in which you live?**
3. **What type of spiritual experience do you desire in your life?**
4. **What was Enoch longing for and how would you describe its meaning?**
5. **What will help you to desire the same experience in your life?**

The Questions of Enoch's Time

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

“You may commune with Christ, who will be within you a hope of glory. This is true religion. All else is deception, a delusion.”—*The Review and Herald*, November 9, 1886.

Suggested Reading: *The Great Controversy*, pp. 531–550.

Sunday April 6

1. BEYOND THE GRAVE

- a. In the time of Enoch, what were some subjects that puzzled many people? Psalm 73:2–8, 16, 17; Ecclesiastes 6:6; 9:10.

“Enoch had been troubled in regard to the dead. It had seemed to him that the righteous and the wicked would go to the dust together, and that this would be their end. He could not see the life of the just beyond the grave.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 85.

- b. How did these questions persist in later history, and how are they still being asked today? Luke 20:27–38; Acts 17:32; 24:21.

“Aside from the dissension between the Sadducees and Pharisees, the Jews were in great darkness concerning the future life and the resurrection of the body.”—*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, p. 280.

- c. Why are these important questions? Acts 24:15; Ecclesiastes 11:9; 12:14; 1 Corinthians 15:13, 14.

“Now is our time to prepare to meet Christ. God has given us this time, and if we use it in self-gratification instead of in crucifying self by sacrifice, we shall come up to the Judgment unprepared.”—*The Signs of the Times*, April 17, 1901.

Monday April 7

2. THE ANSWERS

- a. What answers did Enoch find as to what happens after death? Jude 14, 15.

“In prophetic vision [Enoch] was instructed concerning the death of Christ, and was shown His coming in glory, attended by all the holy angels, to ransom His people from the grave. He also saw . . . the righteous crowned with glory and honor, and the wicked banished from the presence of the Lord, and destroyed by fire.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 85, 86.

- b. What other texts can be given as evidence that there is a life after death? When does this eternal life begin? 1 Corinthians 15:51–55; 1 Thessalonians 4:14–16, 18.

- c. What message of hope can we share with others who are seeking for answers to the question of “what happens after death”? Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:3, 4.

“After Adam’s fall from a state of perfect happiness to a state of misery and sin, there was danger of man’s becoming discouraged and inquiring, ‘What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord’ (Malachi 3:14), since a heavy curse is resting upon the human race, and death is the portion of us all? But the instructions which God gave to Adam, and which were repeated by Seth and fully exemplified by Enoch, cleared away the darkness and gloom, and gave hope to man, that as through Adam came death, through Jesus, the promised Redeemer, would come life and immortality.”—*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, p. 64.

“[The two disciples from Emmaus] longed to deliver their precious message to their friends. Never before had human lips such tidings to proclaim; for the fact of Christ’s resurrection was to be the great truth around which all the faith and hope of the church would center.”—*The Signs of the Times*, October 6, 1909.

3. THE ANSWERS (CONTINUED)

- a. **What else did Enoch learn regarding the second coming of the Lord? Hebrews 9:26–28; 10:17.**

“There is no warfare between Satan and his agents, between fallen angels and those who have yielded themselves to evil. Both possess the same attributes; both, through sin, are evil. But between Christ’s followers and the powers of darkness there is an unwearied conflict, which is to have no end till Christ shall come the second time without sin unto salvation, to destroy him who has destroyed so many souls through his deceptive power.”—*The Signs of the Times*, October 17, 1900.

- b. **What is promised to the faithful for eternity? Revelation 21:1–4, 7; 22:1–5.**

“Will the gates of the city of God be closed against us, or shall we dwell with Jesus through the ceaseless ages of eternity? We want to give to God all that there is of us. It is only to the faithful workers that the Saviour says, ‘Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”—*Historic Sketches of the Foreign Missions of Seventh-day Adventists*, p. 234.

- c. **Why will it be worth striving for eternal life? Luke 13:24.**

“Show the world that you keep the commandments of God because it is for your happiness to do so, even in this life. The reward of obedience is indeed pledged, in this life and the next. ‘Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.’”—*The Signs of the Times*, April 28, 1898.

4. ENOCH’S UNDERSTANDING OF CHRIST

- a. **Whom did Enoch understand Christ to be? Was He just a good man or someone more? Isaiah 44:6; 48:16, 17; Colossians 1:16, 17.**

“Christ was as much man’s Redeemer in the beginning of the world as He is today. Before He clothed His divinity with humanity and came to our world, the gospel message was given by Adam, Seth, Enoch, Methuselah, and Noah. Abraham in Canaan and Lot in Sodom bore the message, and from generation to generation faithful messengers proclaimed the Coming One.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 126.

“In the case of Enoch the desponding faithful were taught that although living among a corrupt and sinful people, who were in open and daring rebellion against God, their Creator, yet if they would obey Him, and have faith in the promised Redeemer, they could work righteousness like the faithful Enoch, be accepted of God, and finally exalted to His heavenly throne.”—*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 58.

- b. **Do we really understand who Christ is? Proverbs 18:24 (last part), John 4:42; 17:3; Ephesians 3:14–19.**

“Those who are pressing toward the mark for the prize of our high calling in Jesus, are giving to the world an example of faith and obedience. They are directing attention to the world to come, and impressing upon souls the worth of eternal life. You cannot do this great work without taking the Saviour with you; but you may have His presence, and rejoice in associating with the Prince of peace. You may communicate with Jesus by the way. You may speak with Him as with a friend. You may know that He is at your side as an ever-present helper. You may ask Him to give you strength to resist every temptation of the evil one. You may have confidence that He bears your prayers, understands your perplexities, weighs your burdens, and pities your weakness. He was tempted in all points like as we are; He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and can and will succor those who come unto Him in hours of distress and temptation. Let Him abide in your heart, that you may honor God and be a vessel filled with the blessing of heaven; then you will be a gatherer with Christ, and will bear fruit unto eternal life.”—*The Review and Herald*, June 12, 1888.

5. ENOCH'S RESPONSE TO CHRIST

- a. As Enoch realized more of the deity of Christ, how did he respond? Jeremiah 9:24; Psalms 37:4; 1:2.

“[Enoch’s] association with Christ day by day transformed him into the image of Him with whom he was so intimately connected. Day by day he was growing away from his own way into Christ’s way, the heavenly, the divine, in his thoughts and feelings. He was constantly inquiring, ‘Is this the way of the Lord?’ His was a constant growth, and he had fellowship with the Father and the Son. This is genuine sanctification.”—*The Review and Herald*, April 28, 1891.

- b. How are we responding to Christ as we realize His goodness to us? How should we be responding? 1 John 3:1; 2 Samuel 22:50; 1 Chronicles 16:8; Proverbs 23:26.

“Inquire earnestly, What shall I do to be saved? The answer is, Take Christ for your personal Saviour. Give up the pleasures of sin in exchange for heaven and eternal life. What are the few days of selfish gratification that contain not one genuine drop of happiness, to the eternity of bliss that awaits the faithful soul? Keep not Christ’s love from your soul. Look to the cross of Calvary if you want a tangible proof of His love. Heaven is looking upon you with intense interest, to see what you will do. The angels are amazed when you turn with indifference from the blessings that are proffered you. If you refuse to respond to the drawing love of Christ, you will finally grow rebellious and defiant.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, March 2, 1893.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What were the questions which perplexed Enoch and the people of his day?
2. Did Enoch find the answers and what were they?
3. What is included in the blessed hope of Christ’s return?
4. Who did Enoch understand Christ to be?
5. Who is Christ to you personally?

Enoch as a Type of the Remnant

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation” (1 Peter 1:15).

“The great work from which the mind should not be diverted is the consideration of our personal standing in the sight of God.”—*The Review and Herald*, November 27, 1900.

Suggested Reading: *Gospel Workers*, pp. 51–54.

1. ENOCH A REPRESENTATIVE

- a. What is the first way in which Enoch is a representative of the people who dwell in the last days of this Earth’s history? Revelation 14:5, 12; 1 Peter 2:9.

- b. What is the second aspect of his representation of the remnant? Genesis 5:24; 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

“By faith Enoch ‘was translated that he should not see death; . . . for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God’ (Hebrews 11:5). In the midst of a world by its iniquity doomed to destruction, Enoch lived a life of such close communion with God that he was not permitted to fall under the power of death. . . . But like Enoch, God’s people will seek for purity of heart and conformity to His will, until they shall reflect the likeness of Christ. Like Enoch, they will warn the world of the Lord’s second coming and of the judgments to be visited upon transgression, and by their holy conversation and example they will condemn the sins of the ungodly. As Enoch was translated to heaven before the destruction of the world by water, so the living righteous will be translated from the earth before its destruction by fire.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 88, 89.

2. WHO ARE WE?

- a. How is the remnant described in the Word of God? Revelation 12:17.

“Christ’s fullness is to be presented to the world by those who have become partakers of His grace. They are to do that for Christ which Christ did for the Father—represent His character.”—*The Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890.

- b. While many profess to be part of the remnant of God, does profession alone save us? Matthew 7:21–23.

“We must not be content with a mere profession. We are to take a stand for the truth by profession, and the principles of truth must become a part of our life.”—*The Review and Herald*, October 1, 1889.

“There are many who know nothing of the new birth. They do not know that the truth will test them, and make manifest whether they really are in the truth or not. We should see to it that we are not deceived. We should know that we are really rooted and grounded in the truth. The Lord wants us to have the fullness of His blessing, that we may not be on the side of the questioner and the doubter, but have spiritual discernment, and be able to know the voice of the True Shepherd from the voice of a stranger. We must have an individual experience. Do not flatter yourselves that because you have made a high profession, you are the light of the world. The question is, ‘Are you the light of the world, or are you the darkness of the world?’”—*Ibid.*

- c. What is it called when we meet some of the requirements of God and neglect others? James 2:10; 4:17.

“Reasoning from cause to effect, we see it is not the greatness of the act of disobedience which constitutes sin, but the fact of variance from God’s expressed will in the least particular, for this is a virtual denial of God, a rebellion against the laws of His government.”—*The Signs of the Times*, April 10, 1893.

3. ARE WE IN THE LAST DAYS?

- a. What should we remember about the coming of the Lord Jesus? Matthew 24:42–44; Revelation 3:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–6.

“There are in the world today many who close their eyes to the evidences that Christ has given to warn men of His coming. They seek to quiet all apprehension, while at the same time the signs of the end are rapidly fulfilling, and the world is hastening to the time when the Son of man shall be revealed in the clouds of heaven. Paul teaches that it is sinful to be indifferent to the signs which are to precede the second coming of Christ.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 260.

“There is a day that God hath appointed for the close of this world’s history. ‘This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and *then* shall the end come.’ Prophecy is fast fulfilling. More, much more, should be said about these tremendously important subjects. The day is at hand when the destiny of every soul will be fixed forever. This day of the Lord hastens on apace. The false watchmen are raising the cry, ‘All is well’; but the day of God is rapidly approaching. Its footsteps are so muffled that it does not arouse the world from the deathlike slumber into which it has fallen. . . . It overtakes the pleasure-lover and the sinful man as a thief in the night. . . . The solemn fact is to be kept not only before the people of the world, but before our own churches also, that the day of the Lord will come suddenly, unexpectedly. The fearful warning of the prophecy is addressed to every soul. Let no one feel that he is secure from the danger of being surprised. Let no one’s interpretation of prophecy rob you of the conviction of the knowledge of events which show that this great event is near at hand.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp. 335, 336 (author’s italics).

- b. What should be our greatest concern in this time? Acts 16:30.

“The great work from which the mind should not be diverted is the consideration of our personal safety in the sight of God. Are our feet on the Rock of ages? Are we hiding ourselves in the only Refuge? The storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father? Are we heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ?”—*The Review and Herald*, November 27, 1900.

4. TWO COMPANIES

- a. How does Scripture show the contrast between the two companies in the last days? **Matthew 25:1–12; 13:25–30.**

“The tares and the wheat are to grow together until the harvest; and the harvest is the end of probationary time.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 72.

“In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just before Christ’s second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ’s near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him,’ many are unready.”—*Ibid.*, p. 408.

- b. How can we keep from being a foolish virgin or a tare? **2 Chronicles 15:2; Psalm 139:23, 24; Philippians 2:12.**

“The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit’s working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up. This class are represented also by the stony-ground hearers. They receive the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles. Its influence is not abiding. The Spirit works upon man’s heart, according to his desire and consent implanting in him a new nature; but the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. Their service to God degenerates into a form. [Ezekiel 33:31 quoted.] . . . This is the class that in time of peril are found crying, Peace and safety. They lull their hearts into security, and dream not of danger. When startled from their lethargy, they discern their destitution, and entreat others to supply their lack; but in spiritual things no man can make up another’s deficiency.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 411, 412.

5. AN ALL CONSUMING LOVE

- a. How much has Christ given for us? **1 Peter 3:18.**

“The Lord God of heaven collected all the riches of the universe, and laid them down in order to purchase the pearl of lost humanity. The Father gave all His divine resources into the hands of Christ in order that the richest blessings of heaven might be poured out upon a fallen race. God could not express greater love than He has expressed in giving the Son of His bosom to this world. This gift was given to man to convince him that God had left nothing undone that He could do, that there is nothing held in reserve, but that all heaven has been poured out in one vast gift. . . . Never can His gift be surpassed, never can He display a richer depth of love. Calvary represents His crowning work.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, October 17, 1895.

- b. How much are you willing to give? **Luke 14:33.**

“The cross of Calvary appeals to us in power, affording a reason why we should love our Saviour, and why we should make Him first and last and best in everything. We should take our fitting place in humble penitence at the foot of the cross. Here, as we see our Saviour in agony, the Son of God dying, the just for the unjust, we may learn lessons of meekness and lowliness of mind. . . . When reviled, He threatens not; when falsely accused, He opens not His mouth. He prays on the cross for His murderers. He is dying for them; He is paying an infinite price for every one of them. He bears the penalty of man’s sins without a murmur. And this uncomplaining victim is the Son of God. His throne is from everlasting, and His kingdom shall have no end.”—*The Signs of the Times*, March 17, 1887.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Of whom is Enoch a representative and why?
2. Describe the true remnant who will be taken to heaven?
3. How should you prepare for the second coming of Jesus?
4. How can you be in the right company at the end of time?
5. How will you respond to the great gift of God’s love?

Enoch's Walk and Ours

"I beseech you . . . that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

"The beauty of holiness is to fill the hearts of God's people. . . . Let the spirit groan after God, and mingle faith with fervent desire."—*The Signs of the Times*, December 16, 1889.

Suggested Reading: *Steps to Christ*, pp. 43–47.

Sunday

April 20

1. CAN WE WALK WITH GOD?

- a. **What are the first things necessary in our life if we would be able to walk with God as Enoch did? Matthew 5:6; 6:33; Hosea 10:12. Is this walk possible?**

"It is only as we behold Jesus that we desire to become like Him. It is only as we view His righteousness that we hunger and thirst to possess it. It is only as we ask in earnest prayer, in humility and simplicity, as a little child asks an earthly parent for some good thing, that God will grant unto us our heart's desire."—*The Signs of the Times*, December 25, 1893.

"We are to live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God; in this way we are to become partakers of the divine nature. Those who are doers of the word of God will be one with Christ, and will walk with God as Enoch walked with Him of old."—*The Medical Missionary*, August 1, 1892.

- b. **What is another need in order to have this experience with God? Mark 11:24; James 1:5, 6.**

"Let us believe the messages of cheer that He sends us. Let us live lives of hope and trust. Christ has given us the key that unlocks heaven's treasure-house of blessing. He declares, 'Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son' (John 14:13). Christ promises not only to present our petitions to the Father, and to intercede in our behalf, but to bestow the blessings sought."—*The Signs of the Times*, December 30, 1903.

Monday

April 21

2. GOD'S POWER AVAILABLE

- a. **Is this spiritual walk something which we must depend upon ourselves to do? John 15:5; Colossians 1:10, 11.**

"The same power that the apostles had is still available for those who will do God's service; and the heavenly universe is waiting for channels through which the tide of mercy may flow throughout the world."—*The Southern Watchman*, February 9, 1904.

"The soul polluted by sin, through divine power is recreated after the image of God in righteousness and true holiness."—*The Signs of the Times*, August 21, 1893.

- b. **What is God's grace? 2 Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 3:7.**

"Christ loved the hopeless sinner, and came to our world to bridge the gulf, and unite divine power to human weakness, that in His strength and grace man might wrestle for himself against Satan's temptations, overcome for himself, and stand in his God-given manhood, a victor over perverted appetite and degrading passions."—*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 146.

"It is Christ's desire that His children shall reach this place. He longs to reveal thru them the treasure of His grace. He says to them, 'Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect' (Matthew 5:48). And He says this because He knows that it is possible for them to reach perfection. The life that He lived in this world, they can live. He met the foe single-handed, as they must meet him. He asked for and received power to enable Him to overcome in conflict. And those who walk in God's way have the same power."—*The Signs of the Times*, August 12, 1908.

"God's grace will be dispensed to His servants to meet the emergency. 'It shall be given you,' says Jesus, 'in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.' As the Spirit of God illuminates the minds of His servants, the truth will be presented in its divine power and preciousness. Those who reject the truth will stand to accuse and oppress the disciples. But under loss and suffering, even unto death, the Lord's children are to reveal the meekness of their divine Example. Thus will be seen the contrast between Satan's agents and the representatives of Christ. The Saviour will be lifted up before the rulers and the people."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 354.

3. ONLY A DECISION AWAY**a. How complicated is the gospel? Mark 10:15.**

“He who looks to Christ in simple, childlike faith, is made a partaker of the divine nature through the agency of the Holy Spirit.”—*The Home Missionary*, November 1, 1893.

b. What is needed to be God’s child? Joshua 24:15 (first part); Matthew 7:7.

“The Lord will not compel men to deal justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with their God; He sets before the human agent good and evil, and makes plain what will be the sure result of following one course or the other. Christ invites us, saying, ‘Follow Me.’ But we are never forced to walk in His footsteps. If we do walk in His footsteps, it is the result of deliberate choice. As we see the life and character of Christ, strong desire is awakened to be like Him in character; and we follow on to know the Lord, and to know His goings forth are prepared as the morning.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 31, 1896.

c. How can we understand what it means to surrender? Deuteronomy 30:19, 20; Joshua 24:1 (last part).

“Many are inquiring, ‘How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?’ You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can *choose* to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure.”—*Steps to Christ*, p. 47 (author’s italics).

4. DAILY SURRENDER**a. How often do we need to decide to follow Jesus? Hebrews 3:12, 13.**

“There is no safety for any of us except as we daily receive a new experience in looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Day by day we are to behold Him, and to become changed into His image. We are to represent the divine attributes, and follow the footsteps of Jesus at whatever cost to ourselves. We are to place ourselves under divine guidance, consulting the word of God, and daily inquiring, Is this the way of the Lord? There are various erratic characters that are wholly unlike Jesus, and that are within the church of Christ; but unless they will submit to become as clay in the hands of the potter, and will be willing to receive the heavenly mold, and be shaped into such vessels as God shall choose to make them, they will always bear their deformity of character, always be vessels unto dishonor, and will never receive the finishing touch of immortality. No deficiency of character will be immortalized and mar heaven with its imperfection.”—*The Review and Herald*, November 20, 1894.

“Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, ‘Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.’ This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ.”—*Steps to Christ*, p. 70.

b. What does surrender include? 1 Corinthians 15:31; Romans 12:1, 2; Hebrews 4:6, 9–11.

“The special gifts of the Spirit are not the only talents represented in the parable [of the talents]. It includes all gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual. . . . In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 328.

“There must be an entire, unreserved surrender to God, a forsaking and turning away from the love of the world and earthly things, or we cannot be His disciples.”—*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4b, p. 150.

5. A LIVING CONNECTION

a. What does it mean to have a living connection with Christ? John 15:4-10; 14:23.

“We are to be found day by day abiding in the Vine, and bringing forth fruit, with patience, at our home, in our business; and in every relation in life manifesting the Spirit of Christ.”—*The Signs of the Times*, April 18, 1892.

“In order to attain to this high calling of God in Christ Jesus, you must begin the day with your Saviour. The very first outbreathing of the soul in the morning should be for the presence of Jesus. ‘Without me,’ He says, ‘ye can do nothing.’ It is Jesus that we need. His light, His life, His spirit must be ours continually. We need Him every hour. . . . We cannot do without His presence one moment.”—*Ibid.*, February 8, 1892.

b. How do we maintain this connection? Proverbs 23:26.

“Your part is to put your will on the side of Christ. When you yield your will to His, He immediately takes possession of you, and works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. Your nature is brought under the control of His Spirit. Even your thoughts are subject to Him. If you cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, you can control the will, and thus an entire change will be wrought in your life. When you yield up your will to Christ, your life is hid with Christ in God. It is allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You have a strength from God that holds you fast to His strength; and a new life, even the life of faith, is possible to you.”—*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 148.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How can you walk with God as Enoch did?
2. How can you experience the power of God in everyday life?
3. What do you need in order to gain this experience with Jesus?
4. How do you surrender? How do you know if you have surrendered?
5. What is a living connection with Jesus Christ? Do you have one?

First Sabbath Offering

for the Mission Work in Asia



With one third of the world’s total population, Asia has seen great expansion in the spreading of the gospel message over the last half century. With new souls being added to the fold daily, missionaries are being called to continue the work of bringing the risen Savior to others hungering for a knowledge of the truth.

“From Japan and China and India, from the still-darkened lands of our own continent, from every quarter of this world of ours, comes the cry of sin-stricken hearts for a knowledge of the God of love. Millions upon millions have never so much as heard of God or of His love revealed in Christ. It is their right to receive this knowledge. They have an equal claim with us in the Saviour’s mercy. And it rests with us who have received the knowledge, with our children to whom we may impart it, to answer their cry.”—*Education*, pp. 262, 263.

At the time of printing, the work of the Reform Movement in the Asian continent is divided into two regions: the Asian Region and the Pacific Region. Each region contains over 1/5 of the world’s population. This offering will be used to further the mission work in the Asian Region, which has 1 union, 4 field conferences, and 6 missions. The six missions are the Myanmar Mission, Nepal Mission, Dindigul Mission, Pakistan Mission, South India Mission, and Sri Lanka Mission.

Please remember in your prayers the brethren and sisters in these missions as they give the final message of warning in their part of the world. Your gifts will bring the gospel to a people hungering and thirsting for the bread and water of life.

D. Sureshkumar, Asian Regional Secretary
M. Natarajan, Assistant Asian Regional Secretary

Enoch's One Desire

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).

"Cultivate only those thoughts and those feelings which will produce gratitude and praise."—*The Signs of the Times*, September 27, 1883.

Suggested Reading: *Testimonies*, vol. 8, pp. 329–331.

Sunday

April 27

1. ENOCH'S PURPOSE

- a. **What was the goal and purpose of Enoch's life? 1 Peter 1:16; John 3:30.**

"By beholding we are to become changed, and as we meditate upon the perfections of our divine Model, we shall desire to become wholly transformed and renewed in the image of His purity. There will be a hungering and thirsting of soul to be made like Him whom we adore. The more our thoughts are upon Christ, the more we shall speak of Him to others, and represent Him to the world. We are called to come out and be separate from the world, that we may be the sons and daughters of the Most High; and we are under sacred obligation to glorify God, as His children upon the earth. It is essential that the mind should be stayed upon Christ, that we may hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto us at the revelation of Jesus Christ from heaven."—*The Review and Herald*, June 12, 1888.

- b. **How was Enoch's goal different from Lucifer's? Isaiah 14:12–14; Luke 14:11.**

"Lucifer had said, 'I will be like the Most High' (Isaiah 14:14); and the desire for self-exaltation had brought strife into the heavenly courts, and had banished a multitude of the hosts of God. Had Lucifer really desired to be like the Most High, he would never have deserted his appointed place in heaven; for the spirit of the Most High is manifested in unselfish ministry. Lucifer desired God's power, but not His character. He sought for himself the highest place, and every being who is actuated by his spirit will do the same. Thus alienation, discord, and strife will be inevitable."—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 435, 436.

Monday

April 28

2. OUR GOAL

- a. **What purpose should characterize our life? Matthew 5:8; Hebrews 12:14.**

"For three hundred years Enoch had been seeking purity of heart, that he might be in harmony with heaven."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 53.

- b. **If we have this goal, what will be seen in our life? Hebrews 8:10; Galatians 5:13, 14; 1 John 2:6.**

"Christ lived in accordance with the principles of God's moral government, and fulfilled the specifications of the law of God. He represented the beneficence of the law in His human life. The fact that the law is holy, just, and good is to be testified before all nations, tongues, and peoples, to worlds unfallen, to angels, seraphim, and cherubim. The principles of the law of God were wrought out in the character of Jesus Christ, and he who cooperates with Christ, becoming a partaker of the divine nature, will develop the divine character, and become an illustration of the divine law. Christ in the heart will bring the whole man, soul, body, and spirit into captivity to the obedience of righteousness. Christ's true followers will be in conformity to the mind and will and character of God, and the far-reaching principles of the law will be demonstrated in humanity."—*The Review and Herald*, March 9, 1897.

- c. **What will be the ultimate result of such an experience? 1 Corinthians 13:12; Matthew 25:21.**

"O, may the love of God inspire our hearts! Let the Holy Spirit enkindle in our hearts a flame of sacred devotion, that we may go forth to work in the vineyard of the Lord. Then we shall wear the victor's crown. Then we shall see Him as He is, and hear at last the benediction, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant: . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.'"—*The Review and Herald*, July 19, 1892.

3. FORSAKING ALL

- a. **Is this walk with God an easy one? Matthew 7:14.**
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- b. **What must we be willing to give in order to gain this experience with Christ? Matthew 16:24-26.**
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“The love revealed in Christ’s life of self-denial and self-sacrifice is to be seen in the lives of His followers. We are called ‘so to walk, even as He walked.’ . . . It was thus that Enoch walked with God.”—*The Review and Herald*, January 9, 1900.

- c. **What is the result of desiring and choosing this experience with Jesus? John 14:23; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 11:29; Revelation 2:7.**
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“Believing His promises, we walk with Him and talk with Him as did Enoch and Elijah and the faithful of all the ages past. They were called pilgrims and strangers in the earth, because they had so much faith in God that they would follow His instruction so completely that they became very different from the world in their plans, and their objects in life were also different.”—*Bible Training School*, November 1, 1911.

- d. **What are some of the specific things which we must forsake in preparation for heaven? 1 John 2:15.**
-

“Our present work is to come out from the world and be separate. This is the only way we can walk with God, as did Enoch.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 535.

“Why is it so hard to lead a self-denying, humble life? Because professed Christians are not dead to the world. It is easy living after we are dead. But many are longing for the leeks and onions of Egypt. They have a disposition to dress and act as much like the world as possible and yet go to heaven. Such climb up some other way. They do not enter through the strait gate and narrow way.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 1, p. 131.

4. SERVANTHOOD

- a. **What special attitude did Enoch manifest in his life? Philippians 2:7.**
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“Enoch had loved and feared God, and had kept His commandments. . . . He was drawn into closer relationship with God. . . . The infinite, unfathomable love of God through Christ became the subject of his meditations day and night. With all the fervor of his soul he sought to reveal that love to the people among whom he dwelt.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 329.

- b. **Can we be part of the remnant without compassion and love? 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.**
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“Who are so moved by the terrible loss of souls that they have even a faint appreciation of the anguish of Christ’s soul? Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jeremiah, and Paul were partakers with Christ in His depths of compassion as far as their human perception could take in the situation. Who can say with Jeremiah, ‘Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not Thy law? O that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughters of my people.’ ‘I could wish myself accursed from Christ for my brethren,’ Paul exclaimed.

“This sympathy is manifestly needed. Unless the heart can beat in sympathy with Christ, man will never understand the elevated and sacred character of the words. “Watch for souls as they that must give an account.” We talk of Christian missions. Our voices are heard, but our hearts have never felt the tender longing and craving for souls that they must feel. With many, trifling acts of service are supposed to be all-sufficient, but there is not the feeblest appreciation for the souls whom Christ died to save. They know not the indulged value to the human soul.”—*Bible Training School*, September 1, 1908.

- c. **How can we have this love in our heart? Luke 11:13; Philippians 1:9-11.**
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5. PRESSING TOWARD THE PRIZE

- a. What must we forget if we desire to go forward? **Philippians 3:14.**

“If we have dark chapters in our experience, let us not keep their memory fresh by repetition. Forgetting the things that are behind, let us press forward to the things that are before. Cultivate only those thoughts and feelings which produce gratitude and praise. If you have been wronged, forget it, and think only of the great mercy, the loving-kindness, the inexpressible love of Jesus.”—*The Signs of the Times*, September 27, 1883.

- b. What must we remember as we press towards the prize? **2 Corinthians 3:18.**

“Looking unto Jesus we obtain brighter and more distinct views of God, and by beholding we become changed. Goodness, love for our fellow men, becomes our natural instinct. We develop a character which is the counterpart of the divine character.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 355.

- c. Even though our path may be strewn with struggles and trials, what should we remember? **1 Corinthians 2:9.**

“I entreat you never to utter one word of complaint. Weave into the warp and woof of your experience the golden threads of gratitude. Contemplate the better land, where tears are never shed, where temptations and trials are never experienced, where losses and reproaches are never known, where all is peace and joy and happiness.”—*The Signs of the Times*, September 27, 1883.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was the difference between Enoch's desire and Satan's?
2. What was the purpose of the life of Enoch, and what should yours be?
3. What does it mean to forsake all?
4. What attitude did Enoch have that you must have as well?
5. What should you remember as you travel heavenward?

Enoch's Talk With God

“Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

“Pray in your closet, and as you go about your daily labor let your heart be often uplifted to God.”—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 98, 99.

Suggested Readings: *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 48–50.
Steps to Christ, pp. 93–104.

1. COMMUNICATION WITH HEAVEN

- a. What is the meaning of communication? **Psalm 4:4; 1 John 1:6, 7.**

- b. With whom do we have the privilege of having this communication? **1 John 1:3.**

“Communion with God, personal and direct, is waiting for each one. Then watch unto prayer, and you will know that your life is hid with Christ in God.”—*The Signs of the Times*, March 17, 1898.

- c. What blessed experience is ours when we have this communion with Christ? **Matthew 28:20.**

“Every individual must seek by earnest prayer to know the Word of God for himself, and then to do it. Only in day by day putting his trust in God, and not in the arm of flesh, will any soul obtain the experience essential to answer the prayer of Christ. . . . In all your temporal concerns, in all your cares and anxieties, wait upon the Lord. . . . The Lord has united your heart with Him. If you love Him, and are accepted in His service, bring all your burdens, both public and private, to the Lord and wait upon Him. You will then have an individual experience, a conviction of His presence and His readiness to hear your prayer for wisdom and for instruction that will give you assurance and confidence in the Lord's willingness to succor you in your perplexities.”—*The Home Missionary*, June 1, 1897.

2. HOW CAN I TALK WITH GOD?

a. How did Enoch talk with God? Psalms 5:3; 61:1.

“We can talk with Jesus as Enoch talked with God. He could tell his Lord all about his trials. Here was the way Enoch walked with God, and when the light shone out upon his pathway, he did not expect to say, ‘Why, what will my friends and relatives say of me if I take this course?’ No, he did that which was right whatever the consequence. Now Enoch sought to have a connection with God, and those who do not have a connection with God have a connection with someone else who will lead them away from everything good.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, p. 256.

b. Is prayer a set form of words to be repeated over and over again? Matthew 6:6-13.

“It is of the utmost importance that we understand how to pray aright. A careful study of the prayer that Jesus gave His disciples will be of great benefit to us. This prayer is just as valuable to Christ’s followers today as it was to His disciples when it was given to them. Let parents teach their children the meaning of this prayer. And let them teach them that God will not accept it if offered as a form. Only as we offer this prayer with an understanding of its meaning and a realization of our need, will it be acceptable to God.”—*The Signs of the Times*, October 28, 1903.

“Christ did not give us this prayer to repeat as a form. He gave it as an illustration of what our prayers should be—simple, earnest, and comprehensive.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, December 7, 1899.

c. How can we learn to pray? Luke 11:1; James 4:8.

“Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him. When Jesus was upon the earth, He taught His disciples how to pray. He directed them to present their daily needs before God, and to cast all their care upon Him. And the assurance He gave them that their petitions should be heard, is assurance also to us.”—*Steps to Christ*, p. 93.

3. WHEN SHOULD I PRAY?

a. When did Enoch talk with God? Luke 18:4; 21:36.

“In the midst of a life of active labor, Enoch steadfastly maintained his communion with God. The greater and more pressing his labors, the more constant and earnest were his prayers. He continued to exclude himself at certain periods from all society. After remaining for a time among the people, laboring to benefit them by instruction and example, he would withdraw, to spend a season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart. Communing thus with God, Enoch came more and more to reflect the divine image. His face was radiant with a holy light, even the light that shineth in the face of Jesus. As he came forth from these divine communings, even the ungodly beheld with awe the impress of heaven upon his countenance.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 52.

b. Why should prayer be more than something done at the worship hour? Psalm 55:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

“By prayer man is braced for duty and prepared for trial. Morning and evening our earnest prayers should ascend to God for His blessing and guidance. True prayer takes hold upon Omnipotence, and gains the victory. Upon his knees the Christian obtains strength to resist temptation. And while engaged in our daily work, we should lift the soul to heaven in prayer. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. The silent, fervent prayer of the soul rises like holy incense to the throne of grace, and is as acceptable to God as if offered in the sanctuary. To all who thus seek Him, Christ is a present help in time of need. In the day of trial they will be brave and strong.”—*The Signs of the Times*, January 29, 1902.

c. How can you pray while busy doing your various duties? 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

“Many fail of imitating our holy Pattern because they study so little the definite features of that character. So many are full of busy plans, always active; and there is no time or place for the precious Jesus to be a close, dear companion. They do not refer every thought and action to Him, inquiring: ‘Is this the way of the Lord?’ If they did they would walk with God, as did Enoch.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 393.

4. WHERE TO PRAY

- a. **Is prayer restricted to only certain places and postures? Hebrews 12:28; Nehemiah 2:3, 4.**

“In times of sudden difficulty or peril the heart may send up its cry for help to One who has pledged Himself to come to the aid of His faithful, believing ones whenever they call upon Him. In every circumstance, under every condition, the soul weighed down with grief and care, or fiercely assailed by temptation, may find assurance, support, and succor in the unfailing love and power of a covenant-keeping God.”—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 631, 632.

“Toilers in the busy walks of life, crowded and almost overwhelmed with perplexity, can send up a petition to God for divine guidance. Travelers by sea and land, when threatened with some great danger, can thus commit themselves to Heaven’s protection.”—*Ibid.*, p. 631.

- b. **What should we remember about our attitude in prayer? Psalm 89:7; Proverbs 22:4; Isaiah 55:6.**

“Herein is a lesson for God’s people today. Our spiritual strength and our influence are not increased by conformity to a worldly attitude during prayer. In these perilous times, those who profess to be God’s commandment-keeping people should guard against the tendency to lose the spirit of reverence and godly fear. The Scriptures teach men how to approach their Maker—with humility and awe, through faith in a divine Mediator. Let man come on bended knee, as a subject of grace, a suppliant at the footstool of mercy. Thus he is to testify that the whole soul, body, and spirit are in subjection to his Creator.”—*The Review and Herald*, November 30, 1905.

“True reverence for God is inspired by a sense of His infinite greatness and a realization of His presence. With this sense of the Unseen, every heart should be deeply impressed. The hour and place of prayer are sacred, because God is there. And as reverence is manifested in attitude and demeanor, the feeling that inspires it will be deepened. ‘Holy and reverend is His name,’ the psalmist declares (Psalm 111:9). Angels, when they speak that name, veil their faces. With what reverence, then, should we, who are fallen and sinful, take it upon our lips!”—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 48, 49.

5. WHY SHOULD I PRAY?

- a. **What is the deepest reason for prayer? Philippians 3:10.**

“It is a wonderful thing that we can pray effectually; that unworthy, erring mortals possess the power of offering their requests to God. What higher power can man desire than this—to be linked with the infinite God? Feeble, sinful man has the privilege of speaking to his Maker. We may utter words that reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. We may speak with Jesus as we walk by the way, and He says, I am at thy right hand.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 258.

- b. **What are other reasons to pray? John 10:4, 5; Isaiah 40:31.**

“If we regard iniquity in our hearts the Lord will not hear us. . . . When we come to Him, we should pray that we may enter into and accomplish His purpose, and that our desires and interests may be lost in His.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 148.

“If we would grow up into Christ our living head, we must make prayer a daily necessity, not only in the closet, but in the family also. It is because we pray so little that our prayers are not more urgent and intelligent. In prayer we commune with God, and become acquainted with Him.”—*The Signs of the Times*, March 5, 1885.

“Before taking up our daily work, we should draw near to God, to talk with Him whom we reverence and love, and to ask for help, not only for ourselves, but for others. He is well pleased when we come to Him in full confidence, asking for grace to overcome.”—*Ibid.*, October 28, 1903.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Why is it a privilege to talk with God?**
2. **What should you remember when wanting to pray?**
3. **How is it possible to continually be in an attitude of prayer?**
4. **Where can prayer take place?**
5. **How can prayer become a more important part of your life?**

Enoch's Character

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

“If the heart is not cleansed from sin, Christ can not dwell there. The one or the other must be the controlling element.”—*The Review and Herald*, October 3, 1899.

Suggested Reading: *Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 741–745.

Sunday

May 11

1. REFLECTING JESUS

- a. **Who was Enoch showing to the people of his time? Hebrews 11:5; 1 Peter 1:15.**

- b. **In what ways was Enoch showing the character of Christ? Exodus 34:6.**

“Enoch . . . became so pure in character that the Lord communicated His will to him, and through holy vision revealed the great events connected with Christ's second appearing, and also the wickedness that would prevail just prior to the end. Enoch was a faithful preacher of righteousness, and sought to turn men from the transgression of the law to faithful obedience. He walked with God three hundred years, giving to the world a faithful example in a pure and spotless life, which was in marked contrast with that rebellious and self-willed generation who boasted of their open disregard of God's holy law.”—*The Review and Herald*, April 29, 1875.

- c. **Who else in the Bible reflected Christ in their life? Hebrews 11:4, 7, 8, 13; Revelation 14:1.**

“The spirit which Enoch, Joseph, and Daniel possessed, we may have. We may draw from the same source of strength, and realize the same power of self-control; and the same graces may shine out in our lives.”—*The Review and Herald*, September 1, 1885.

Monday

May 12

2. CAN WE REFLECT CHRIST TOO?

- a. **How is it possible that sinful humanity can reveal Christ? Matthew 5:16.**

“Without the grace of Christ, the sinner is in a hopeless condition; nothing can be done for him; but through divine grace, supernatural power is imparted to the man, and works in mind and heart and character. It is through the impartation of the grace of Christ that sin is discerned in its hateful nature, and finally driven from the soul temple. . . . Faith can present Christ's perfect obedience instead of the sinner's transgression and defection.”—*The Review and Herald*, November 4, 1890.

“What mother ever loved her child as Jesus loves His children? He looks upon the marred character with grief deeper, keener than any mother's. He sees the future retribution of an evil course of action. Then let everything be done that can be done for the neglected soul.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 287.

- b. **When can Christ be revealed through our individual life? 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 2 Corinthians 7:1.**

“If the heart is not cleansed from sin, Christ can not dwell there. The one or the other must be the controlling element.”—*The Review and Herald*, October 3, 1899.

“The people of God are to be the light of the world. In character and life we are to make manifest the requirement of God in humanity; and in order to do this, we must gather up the rays of divine light from the Bible, and let them shine forth to those who are in darkness. Christ must abide in our hearts by faith, that we may know and teach the way to heaven. ‘And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever’ (Daniel 12:3).”—*Ibid.*, December 5, 1912.

“It is the design of God that through man His glory shall be revealed to the world; but it is only those who connect themselves with God in Jesus Christ, who can reveal that goodness and that fidelity which Christ manifested in His life. As the branches of the vine are united in the parent stock, so will the children of God be united as one in Christ. They are to reveal to the world the character of God. They must study the Scriptures with the purpose in view of living the unselfish life of Christ.”—*Ibid.*, May 30, 1899.

3. UNSELFISH MINISTRY

- a. **What did Enoch realize about his purpose in life? Ephesians 2:10; Psalm 86:12.**

“Religion brings man into personal relation with God, but not exclusively; for the principles of heaven are to be lived out, that they may help and bless humanity. A true child of God will love Him with all his heart, and his neighbor as himself. He will have an interest for his fellowmen. True religion is the work of grace upon the heart, that causes the life to flow out in good works, like a fountain fed from living streams. Religion does not consist merely in meditation and prayer. The Christian’s light is displayed in good works, and is thus recognized by others.”—*The Review and Herald*, September 18, 1888.

- b. **How does this attitude affect the practical duties of life? 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 1 Peter 2:12.**

“You may be in a position where your influence will tell on the Lord’s side. It is your exalted privilege to be a victor over the appetites and passions of the flesh, through the strength of Christ. Enoch walked with God for three hundred years. He was in harmony with the will of heaven. Enoch is a representative of the people who are to be translated from the earth. It is not time for us to make a complete surrender to God? We must be in earnest in seeking His blessing. We must crucify the old man, with the affections and lusts, in order to meet the requirements of God. Those who have been blessed of God did not cease seeking Him until they knew they had fulfilled His requirements and stood approved before Him.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 12, 1889.

“Real godliness is diffusive and communicative. The psalmist says, ‘I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation’ (Psalm 40:10). Wherever the love of God is, there is always a desire to express it. . . . It was through constant conflict and simple faith that Enoch walked with God. We may all do the same. We may be thoroughly converted and transformed, and be indeed children of God, enjoying not only the knowledge of His will, but leading others, by our example, in the same path of humble obedience and consecration.”—*Ibid.*, June 22, 1886.

4. OUR VOCATION

- a. **What are we called to be and to do? 1 Peter 2:9.**

“The religion of Christ exemplified in the daily life of His followers will exert a tenfold greater influence than the most eloquent sermons.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 547.

- b. **Who can we trust to guide the direction of our life? Proverbs 3:5, 6; Jeremiah 10:23.**

“Above the distractions of the earth [God] sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 417.

- c. **If we have made a decision for Christ, what is our job description? 2 Corinthians 5:20; Romans 10:14, 15.**

“It is not our right to live to please ourselves in spirit, thought, word, or action. As Christians we have duties to do for the benefit of others. We owe to all our contribution to increase the sum of human happiness. . . . As Christ’s representatives, we are to bear to the world a far higher representation of what the beauty of holiness is. What is holiness?—It is wholeness to God. Our words, our actions, the manner of spirit manifested is the outward and visible manifestation of what is within, and testifies as to whether we have on the robe of Christ’s righteousness, woven in the loom of heaven, or are clothed with our own natural citizen’s dress. We are to give evidence to the world in our outward acts as to what is the influence of the truth upon our hearts. The world observes our lives, hears our words, watches and measures our characters by these outward signs, and estimates the truth we profess to believe, according to that which we reveal as having been accomplished by it for us.”—*The Review and Herald*, July 18, 1893.

5. THE FRUIT OF CONNECTION

- a. How can we know if we have a living connection with Christ? Matthew 7:16.

“What is it to bear fruit? It is not all comprised in coming to meeting once a week, and bearing our testimony in prayer or social meeting. We are to be found day by day abiding in the Vine, and bringing forth fruit, with patience, at our home, in our business; and in every relation in life manifesting the Spirit of Christ. There are many who act as though they thought an occasional connection with Christ was all that was necessary, and that they can be accounted living branches because at times they make confession of Christ. But this is a fallacy. The branch is to be grafted into the Vine, and to abide there, uniting itself to the Vine fiber by fiber, drawing its daily supply of sap and nourishment from the root and fatness of the Vine, until it becomes one with the parent stock.”—*The Signs of the Times*, April 18, 1892.

- b. What are the specific fruits of this connection with Christ? Galatians 5:22–24; John 13:35; 2 Corinthians 4:5.

“Our professions are worthless unless we abide in Christ; for we cannot be living branches unless the vital qualities of the Vine abound in us. In the genuine Christian the characteristics of his Master will appear, and when we reflect the graces of Christ in our lives and characters, the Father loves us as He loves His Son. When this condition is fulfilled in those who profess to believe the present truth, we shall see a prosperous church; for its members will not live unto themselves, but unto Him who died for them, and they will be flourishing branches of the living Vine.”—*The Signs of the Times*, April 18, 1892.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How did Enoch glorify the Father in heaven?
2. How is it possible that you can reflect Christ now?
3. What must you remember about the purpose of your life?
4. If you have committed your life to Christ, what is to be your work?
5. Do you have a living connection with Christ? How can this happen?

Enoch's Dwelling Place

“What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14).

“Enoch reached a higher experience; he was drawn into a closer relationship with God. He realized more fully his own obligations and responsibility as a son of God.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 84.

Suggested Readings: *Evangelism*, pp. 76–78.
The Adventist Home, pp. 141–147.

1. CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLACE

- a. What considerations must be made in choosing where we should live? 1 John 2:15; 2 Corinthians 6:14, 17; Psalm 143:10.

“Enoch, separating himself from the world, and spending much of his time in prayer and in communion with God, represents God's loyal people in the last days who will be separate from the world. Unrighteousness will prevail to a dreadful extent upon the earth. Men will give themselves up to follow every imagination of their corrupt hearts, and carry out their deceptive philosophy, and rebel against the authority of high Heaven.”—*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, pp. 58, 59.

“In selecting a home [many] look more to the temporal advantages they may gain than to the moral and social influences that will surround themselves and their families. They choose a beautiful and fertile country, or remove to some flourishing city, in the hope of securing greater prosperity; but their children are surrounded by temptation, and too often they form associations that are unfavorable to the development of piety and the formation of a right character.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 168, 169.

- b. What are the consequences of not following God's counsel regarding our dwelling place? James 4:17; Luke 12:47.

2. REACHING OUT

- a. Did country living prevent Enoch from reaching out to others in the cities? Matthew 22:8–10; Luke 14:23.

“Enoch’s walk with God was not in a trance or a vision, but in all the duties of his daily life. He did not become a hermit, shutting himself entirely from the world; for he had a work to do for God in the world. In the family and in his intercourse with men, as a husband and father, a friend, a citizen, he was the steadfast, unwavering servant of the Lord. . . .

“Distressed by the increasing wickedness of the ungodly, and fearing that their infidelity might lessen his reverence for God, Enoch avoided constant association with them, and spent much time in solitude, giving himself to meditation and prayer. . . . He continued to exclude himself, at certain periods, from all society. After remaining for a time among the people, laboring to benefit them by instruction and example, he would withdraw, to spend a season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 85–87.

- b. What is God’s will for us in regard to reaching the world? Mark 16:15; Acts 5:42; Colossians 1:28; Revelation 14:6.

“God does not mean that any of us should become hermits or monks and retire from the world in order to devote ourselves to acts of worship. The life must be like Christ’s life—between the mountain and the multitude. He who does nothing but pray will soon cease to pray, or his prayers will become a formal routine. When men take themselves out of social life, away from the sphere of Christian duty and cross bearing; when they cease to work earnestly for the Master, who worked earnestly for them, they lose the subject matter of prayer and have no incentive to devotion.”—*Steps to Christ*, p. 101.

“God’s people will separate themselves from the unrighteous practices of those around them. . . . While they endeavor to instruct and warn the world, they will not conform to the spirit and customs of unbelievers, but will condemn them by their holy conversation and godly example.”—*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 59.

3. PERFECTING PRIORITIES

- a. In his day-to-day living, what was Enoch’s number one priority? Matthew 6:33; 5:48.

- b. What must be our most important priority if we would have such an experience as Enoch’s? Matthew 12:50; John 5:30.

“We must live by the moment, and every moment we are to watch. We can not tell when the hour will come for our probation to close, our work to end. We know that often those who go out from their homes never return again alive; therefore, when you arise in the morning, rise with the praise of God on your lips, and when you go out to work, go with a prayer to God for help. If you have a large amount of work to do, then you have need of much prayer as well. If you have heavy burdens, then you are to seek the throne of God with greater earnestness; and as you seek after God, He takes your hand and lays it in His own.”—*The Review and Herald*, January 5, 1911.

- c. How is this implemented when considering our daily schedule? Genesis 19:27; Exodus 24:4; Luke 21:38.

“‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you’ (Mathew 6:33). This is the first work to be engaged in. Every family should rear its altar of prayer, realizing that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. If any persons in the world need the strength and encouragement that religion gives, it is those who are responsible for the education and training of children. They can not do their work in a manner acceptable to God while their daily example teaches those who look to them for guidance that they can live without God. If they educate their children to live for this life only, they will make no preparation for eternity. They will die as they have lived, without God, and parents will be called to account for the loss of their souls. Fathers, mothers, you need to seek God morning and evening at the family altar, that you may learn how to teach your children wisely, tenderly, lovingly, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little.”—*The Review and Herald*, June 27, 1899.

4. THE FIRST MISSION FIELD

- a. With so many needs around us, what must we remember about the first mission field? Deuteronomy 6:2, 6–8; Proverbs 22:6.

“Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home. . . . There is no missionary field more important than this. . . . But if they ever learn to do genuine missionary work for others, they must first learn to labor for those at home, who have a natural right to their offices of love.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 429.

“‘No time,’ says the father, ‘I have no time to give to the training of my children, no time for social and domestic enjoyments.’ Then you should not have taken upon yourself the responsibility of a family. By withholding from them the time which is justly theirs, you rob them of the education which they should have at your hands. If you have children, you have a work to do, in union with the mother, in the formation of their characters. Those who feel that they have an imperative call to labor for the improvement of society, while their own children grow up undisciplined, should inquire if they have not mistaken their duty. Their own household is the first missionary field in which parents are required to labor. Those who leave the home garden to grow up to thorns and briars, while they manifest great interest in the cultivation of their neighbor’s plot of ground, are disregarding the word of God.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 21, 1882.

- b. What is the potential influence of the family? 2 Timothy 1:5.

“One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached. Such a family gives evidence that the parents have been successful in following God’s directions, and that their children will serve Him in the church. Their influence grows; for as they impart, they receive to impart again. The father and mother find helpers in their children, who give to others the instruction received in the home. The neighborhood in which they live is helped, for in it they have become enriched for time and for eternity. The whole family is engaged in the service of the Master; and by their godly example, others are inspired to be faithful and true to God in dealing with His flock, His beautiful flock.”—*The Review and Herald*, June 6, 1899.

5. TIME MANAGEMENT

- a. In order to be effective missionaries in the home or outside, what talent must be especially guarded and why? Matthew 25:15; 1 Corinthians 7:29 (first part).

“Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 342.

“It is a sad failing with many that they are always behind time on Sabbath morning. They are very particular about their own time, they cannot afford to lose an hour of that; but the Lord’s time, the only day out of the seven that the Lord claims as His, and requires us to devote to Him, quite a portion of this is squandered away by sleeping late in the morning. In this they are robbing God. It causes them to be behind in everything; it makes confusion in the family; and finally results in the tardiness of the entire family at Sabbath School, and perhaps at meeting.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, March 19, 1879.

“Punctuality and decision in the work and cause of God are highly essential. Delays are virtually defeats.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 500.

- b. How did Enoch know how to spend his time? Colossians 4:5; Ephesians 5:16.

“We have no time to spend on the vanities and follies of this world. There is a world to be saved, and we should carefully consider the example we give to those around us, conforming our lives to the life of Him who became a child of humanity that He might give a perfect example to every human being.”—*The Review and Herald*, January 6, 1910.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where is the best dwelling place for preparing to meet Jesus?
2. What should you be doing from your outpost?
3. What should be your number one priority in life?
4. Where is your first mission field and how can you reach it?
5. How important is punctuality in light of God’s word?

Enoch's Conversation

“Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

“God puts into the heart and lips of His messengers truths to utter that are keen and cutting as a two-edged sword.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 86.

Suggested Reading: *Testimonies*, vol. 2, pp. 121–123.

Sunday

May 25

1. GOD'S WONDERFUL LOVE

- a. **What elements of conversation did Enoch understand and implement? Ephesians 5:1–12.**

“Let every soul who claims to be a son or a daughter of God examine himself in the light of heaven; let him consider the polluted lips that make him ‘undone.’ They are the medium of communication. [Matthew 12:34, 35 quoted.] Then let them not be used in bringing from the treasure of the heart words that will dishonor God and discourage those around you, but use them for the praise and glory of God, who has formed them for this purpose; . . . and when the love of Jesus is the theme of contemplation, the words coming from human lips will be full of praise and thanksgiving to God and to the Lamb.”—*The Review and Herald*, December 22, 1896.

- b. **What did Enoch delight to share with the people around him? 1 John 5:11–13; 3:1.**

“Enoch's case is before us. . . . He lived in a corrupt age, when moral pollution was teeming all round him; yet he trained his mind to devotion, to love purity. His conversation was upon heavenly things. He educated his mind to run in this channel, and he bore the impress of the divine. His countenance was lighted up with the light which shineth in the face of Jesus.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 122.

Monday

May 26

2. DECLARING TRUTH

- a. **In addition to speaking of the love of God, what did Enoch declare to the people of his generation? 2 Peter 1:13, 14; Jude 14.**

“[Those who watch for the Lord's coming] are declaring the truth that is now specially applicable. As Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Moses each declared the truth for his time, so will Christ's servants now give the special warning for their generation.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 634.

“You may be thoroughly converted and transformed, and be indeed children of God, enjoying not only the knowledge of His will, but, by your example, leading others in the same path of humble obedience and consecration. Real godliness is diffusive and communicative. The psalmist says: ‘I have not hid Thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared Thy faithfulness and Thy salvation: I have not concealed Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth from the great congregation.’ Wherever the love of God is, there is always a desire to express it.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, pp. 543, 544.

“Now, as in former ages, the presentation of a truth that reproves the errors and sins of the times will call forth a storm of opposition. ‘Every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d’ (John 3:20). . . .

“And what is our duty in view of this? Shall we conclude that the truth ought not to be presented, since its effect is so often to arouse men to evade or resist its claims?— No; we have no more reason for withholding the testimony of God's word because it excites opposition than had Martin Luther. Luther declared himself to have been urged on, compelled by the Spirit of God, to battle against the evils of his time; and in the same manner must those labor who still carry forward the work of reform. To the servants of God at this time is the command addressed, ‘Lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.’

“The true followers of Christ do not wait for truth to become popular. Being convinced of their duty, they deliberately accept the cross, and thus remove the greatest obstacle to the reception of truth—the only argument which its advocates have never been able to refute. It is weak, inefficient world-servers that think it praiseworthy to have no principle in religious things. We should choose the right because it is right, and leave consequences with God. To men of principle, faith, and daring, is the world indebted for its great reforms. By such men must the work of reform for this time be carried forward.”—*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, pp. 292, 293.

3. REBUKING SIN**a. Why must sin be rebuked? Ephesians 5:11, 12; Titus 1:13.**

“Those whom God has set apart as ministers of righteousness have solemn responsibilities laid upon them to reprove the sins of the people. Paul commanded Titus: ‘These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.’ There are ever those who will despise the one who dares to reprove sin; but there are times when reproof must be given. Paul directs Titus to rebuke a certain class sharply, that they may be sound in the faith. Men and women who, with their different organizations, are brought together in church capacity have peculiarities and faults. As these are developed, they will require reproof. If those who are placed in important positions never reprovved, never rebuked, there would soon be a demoralized condition of things that would greatly dishonor God. But how shall the reproof be given? Let the apostle answer: ‘With all long-suffering and doctrine.’ Principle should be brought to bear upon the one who needs reproof, but never should the wrongs of God’s people be passed by indifferently.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, pp. 358, 359.

“It is sin that has dragged down and degraded the faculties of the soul; but through faith in Jesus Christ as our Redeemer, we may be restored to holiness and truth. All who would learn of Christ must be emptied of human wisdom.”—*The Signs of the Times*, December 25, 1893.

b. In which spirit did Enoch deal with sin?

“[Enoch] was a fearless reprover of sin. While he preached the love of God in Christ to the people of his time, and pleaded with them to forsake their evil ways, he rebuked the prevailing iniquity and warned the men of his generation that judgment would surely be visited upon the transgressor. It was the Spirit of Christ that spoke through Enoch; that Spirit is manifested, not alone in utterances of love, compassion, and entreaty; it is not smooth things only that are spoken by holy men. God puts into the heart and lips of His messengers truths to utter that are keen and cutting as a two-edged sword.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 86.

c. How should we deal with sin in our days? 2 Timothy 4:1–4.**4. THE NEEDS NOW****a. What is our most urgent need? Psalm 85:6; Acts 3:19.**

“We are to realize to what we are called in Christ; for by faith we are to attain unto His righteousness. Since this is the standard for our attainment, how can any of us be satisfied with our present attainments? If we have been dwelling upon things seen and temporal, let us turn our attention to the things unseen and eternal. Let us not wait for a revival in the church, or for special conviction; but, realizing our need, and knowing that all heaven is at our command, let us now yield our hearts to God. Let us not think that we may wait until some Conference meeting, until a large company is called forward, to seek God’s blessing. It is best for us to be awake individually, today yielding our hearts to God. Decide now to dedicate yourself to Him, not only as a congregation, but as individuals; decide to seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Do not wait one for another. Do not look about you to see if your neighbor is going to make the surrender, but, realizing that each one of us must give an account of himself to God, that we have a living Saviour, who is our substitute and surety, draw nigh to God.”—*The Signs of the Times*, January 16, 1893.

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887.

b. What specific things should we put away? Ephesians 4:22–24.

“Let every church arouse and put away their pride and vanity and worldliness. Let them humble their hearts before God by repentance that they have lifted so few burdens for Christ.”—*The Review and Herald*, December 7, 1886.

5. THE MOTIVATION

a. Before warning can be successful, we must have a converted heart and be a good example. What kind of care do we need for others? 2 Corinthians 7:8-12; 1 Timothy 4:10; 1 John 3:10, 11 (last part).

b. How is compassion defined and how can you have it in your life? 1 Corinthians 13:1-8; Matthew 7:7.

“If we occupy our thoughts in contemplating [our Redeemer’s] love and mercy, we shall reflect the same in our life and character; for by beholding we become changed. Only by exalting Jesus and abasing self can we celebrate aright the birth of the Son of God.”—*The Signs of the Times*, December 8, 1887.

“Do you seek to glorify God, and honor Him in your life? You should seek and pray for a spirit of thankfulness for all the blessings you enjoy, and seek earnestly for the Holy Spirit to dwell in you. If you do not possess the Holy Spirit, there is a fault, and the fault is in you; for Jesus says, ‘If ye, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him.’ With such an assurance as this of the willingness of your Father in heaven to give you His Holy Spirit, how can you remain away from Him? How can you longer neglect to ask Him in confidence to perform that work in you so necessary to make you a devoted Christian? O, come to Jesus now, dear young friends, with a broken heart, and with confidence in the mercy and promises of God, plead for pardon for your past wanderings from the fold of Christ—plead in earnest prayer till you feel His pardoning love, and the fullness of His Spirit dwelling in you.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, February 1, 1856.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What did Enoch declare to his generation?
2. How can you speak more of the Father’s love?
3. Why must sin be rebuked and how should you do this?
4. What are the present needs?
5. What must be the motivation for correction in your life and the life of others?

First Sabbath Offering

Ecuador



This month the special First Sabbath Offering is dedicated to the development of the work in Santo Domingo de los Colorados, Ecuador. Santo Domingo is located west of the capital city of Quito in the province of Pichincha.

The region which surrounds Santo Domingo is very beautiful and the climate is very hospitable. For over 35 years the brethren in this area have been spreading the gospel to the people of Pichincha, but there is still much work to do. Your offering will be used primarily for expansion and renovation of the existing lighthouse in Santo Domingo, so that the brethren may have a base from which to go out and save lost sheep.

The message of Reformation reached Ecuador only in February of 1945. In that year Br. Mario Linares was sent to start the work there. Great difficulties barred the progress of the work in the early months, but the Lord would bring together His lost sheep in this land, and by October there were enough members and interested souls to hold a conference. During the 1950’s the work was largely neglected, but in the 1960’s a minister working in Portugal accepted the call to continue the evangelistic work in Ecuador. From then on Ecuador has been a steadily growing field previously as part of the South American Northern Union, and now as a self-sustaining Field directly attached to the General Conference.

Your donation today will help to further the work in this fast-growing Field of labor for lost souls.

PROJECT 046

Your brethren and sisters from Ecuador

VITAL STATISTICS

- **Area:** 283,560 sq km (106,822 sq mi)
- **Population:** 13,183,978 (2001)
- **Capital:** Quito (pop. 1,754,000)
- **Literacy Rate:** 90% (2002)
- **Languages:** Spanish (official), Quechua, other Amerindian
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 95%

ECONOMY

- **Monetary Unit:** US Dollar since April 2000
- **GDP/PPP:** \$37.2 billion; \$2,900 per capita (2000 est.)
- **Inflation:** 43% (2001)
- **Major Trading Partners:** United States, Peru, Colombia, Germany, Spain, Japan, South Korea.

Enoch's Mind

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5).

“The brain is the citadel of the whole man, and wrong habits of eating, dressing, or sleeping affect the brain.”—*Christian Education*, p. 125.

Suggested Readings: *Education*, pp. 260, 261.
Fundamentals of Christian Education, pp. 162, 163.

Sunday

June 1

1. LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU

- a. Enoch is described as walking with God. How are the remnant described? What does this mean? Psalms 119:1; 32:2; 1 Peter 3:10.

“In the soul consecrated to the service of Christ will be a growing distaste for coarse thought, rough manners, and unseemly language, for it is all in opposition to the chaste, pure Spirit of Christ, which dwells within.”—*The Signs of the Times*, October 13, 1890.

- b. Before our actions and conversation can be pure, what must be made new? Philippians 2:2–5.

“You . . . must have a thorough conversion, a thorough renewing of the mind, a thorough transformation, or you will have no part in the kingdom of God. Your appearance, your good looks, your dress, will not bring you into favor with God. It is moral worth that the great I AM notices. There is no real beauty of person or of character out of Christ, no real perfection of manners or deportment without the sanctifying graces of the spirit of humility, sympathy, and true holiness.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 174.

Monday

June 2

2. NO FLESHLY ATTRIBUTES

- a. What attitudes and actions must be eliminated from our life? Define each. Galatians 5:19–21.

“Show what is the fruit of conversion, the evidence that [men and women] love God. Show that true conversion is a change of heart, of thoughts and purposes. Evil habits are to be given up. The sins of evil-speaking, of jealousy, of disobedience, are to be put away. A warfare must be waged against every evil trait of character.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 95.

“It is possible to manifest apparent zeal in the service of God, to offer prayers and observe fasts, and yet not be acknowledged of the Lord. When our prayers are offered in self-confidence, when we fail to watch, and bring our actions into harmony with our prayers, we are not accounted worshipers in the sight of heaven. We are destitute of the faith that works by love and purifies the soul; for genuine faith will lead the possessor to mortify the deeds of the flesh, and crucify selfishness, self-love, impatience, and self-righteousness. Those who would truly follow Christ must daily learn lessons in meekness and lowliness of heart, that they may speak guardedly, manifest courtesy and kindness, have tender hearts, and bring sympathy and sunshine into the home. All strife, all debate, all smiting with the tongue and the fist of wickedness, must be put away. The overbearing will must be subdued, and gentleness and a disposition to be easily entreated must be cultivated.”—*The Review and Herald*, June 5, 1894.

“In our institutions of learning there is to be exerted an influence that would counteract the influence of the world, and give no encouragement to indulgence in appetite, in selfish gratification of the senses, in pride, ambition, love of dress and display, love of praise and flattery, and strife for high rewards and honors as a recompense for good scholarship. All this was to be discouraged in our schools.”—*The Advocate*, February 1, 1900.

- b. What are the habits most prevalent in our day? Romans 16:18.

“Frivolous amusements, pride of dress, indulgence of appetite harden the heart and benumb the conscience so that the voice of truth is not heard. Duty is a despised word. Things of infinite value are lightly esteemed, until the heart loses all desire to sacrifice for Him who has given so much for man. But in the reaping time they must gather the crop sown.”—*The Signs of the Times*, August 18, 1881.

3. ENOCH'S FOCUS

- a. How was Enoch's walk sustained? Where was his focus? Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 32:8.

“[Enoch's] mind, his heart, his conversation, were in heaven.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 87.

- b. What should our focus be? Psalms 86:11; 101:2. How can we do this in the busy time in which we live? Philippians 4:6.

“If we would all live more simply, and let the time usually given to the indulgence of appetite and the gratification of pride in dress, be spent in searching the Scriptures and in humble prayer for the bread of life, we would receive greater spiritual strength. We need to give less attention to our mere temporal wants, and more to our eternal interests.”—*The Review and Herald*, May 8, 1883.

“Do not overwork. Far better leave undone some of the things planned for the day than to overtax yourself.”—*The Signs of the Times*, May 10, 1905.

“It is the cry of many mothers, ‘I have no time to be with my children.’ Then for Christ's sake spend less time on your dress. . . . Neglect to receive and make calls. Neglect to cook an endless variety of dishes. But never, never neglect your children. . . . Show your children that you are determined to be a Bible Christian. Dress modestly. Speak wisely. Be gentle, yet as firm as a rock, to principle. . . . Make your clothes and your food plain. Then you will have time for the culture of your children.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 7, 1907.

“Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste. . . . They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work. . . . They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power.”—*Education*, pp. 260, 261.

4. ENOCH'S MENTAL FOOD

- a. In order to be physically healthy, we need good food. What is needed to have a healthy mind? Matthew 22:37; 1 Corinthians 2:16.

“What shall our children read? is a serious question, and demands a serious answer. I am troubled to see, in Christian families, periodicals and newspapers containing continued stories that leave no impress of good upon the mind. I have watched those whose taste for fiction has been thus cultivated. . . . The mind is feasted upon sensational stories. They live in an unreal world, and are unfitted for the practical duties of life. . . . Religious thought and conversation has become distasteful. The mental food for which he has acquired a relish, is contaminating in its effects, and leads to impure and sensual thoughts. . . .

“I am personally acquainted with some who have lost the healthy tone of the mind through wrong habits of reading. They go through life with a diseased imagination, magnifying every little grievance. Things which a sound, sensible mind would not notice, become to them unendurable trials, insurmountable obstacles. To them, life is in constant shadow. . . . They cannot be truly Christlike, and continue to feed the mind upon this class of literature. Nor is the physical effect less disastrous. The nervous system is unnecessarily taxed by this passion for reading.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp. 162, 163.

- b. How can we determine what is profitable food for our mind? Philippians 4:8.

“It is best for every soul to closely investigate what mental food is served up for him to eat. When those come to you who live to talk, and who are all armed and equipped to say, ‘Report, and we will report it,’ stop and think if the conversation will give spiritual help. . . . We are not to be tattlers, or gossipers, or talebearers; we are not to bear false witness. We are forbidden by God to engage in trifling, foolish conversation, in jesting, joking, or speaking any idle words.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 458.

- c. What should we do with anything that would cause our mind to turn from God? Psalm 101:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1.
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5. CAUSE AND EFFECT

- a. Is the mind, therefore the character, affected by anything physical? 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20; Ecclesiastes 10:17.

“The brain is the citadel of the whole man, and wrong habits of eating, dressing, or sleeping affect the brain.”—*Christian Education*, p. 125.

“Let none who profess godliness regard with indifference the health of the body, and flatter themselves that intemperance is no sin, and will not affect their spirituality. A close sympathy exists between the physical and the moral nature.”—*The Review and Herald*, January 25, 1881.

- b. How should we view the very important counsels regarding our lifestyle?

“There are many among professed Christians today who would decide that Daniel was too particular, and would pronounce him narrow and bigoted. They consider the matter of eating and drinking as of too little consequence to require such a decided stand—one involving the probable sacrifice of every earthly advantage. But those who reason thus will find in the day of judgment that they turned from God’s express requirements and set up their own opinion as a standard of right and wrong. They will find that what seemed to them unimportant was not so regarded of God. His requirements should be sacredly obeyed. Those who accept and obey one of His precepts because it is convenient to do so, while they reject another because its observance would require a sacrifice, lower the standard of right and by their example lead others to lightly regard the holy law of God. ‘Thus saith the Lord’ is to be our rule in all things.”—*The Sanctified Life*, pp. 19, 20.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What characterized Enoch’s thoughts, and how is this an example for us?
2. What must be eliminated from your mind?
3. What should be the focus of your thoughts on a daily basis?
4. How can you know what is good mental food?
5. What is the connection between your physical habits and your spirituality?

Enoch’s Faith

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for” (Hebrews 11:1).

“[Enoch] was one of the holy line, the preservers of the true faith, the progenitors of the promised seed.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 84.

Suggested Readings: *Gospel Workers*, pp. 261–263.
Spiritual Gifts, vol. 3, pp. 56–60.

1. FAITH IS THE TOOL!

- a. What is faith? Hebrews 11:1; 1 Corinthians 12:9. To whom is faith given and when? Romans 10:17; 12:3; 1 Timothy 1:14.

“As your conscience has been quickened by the Holy Spirit, you have seen something of the evil of sin, of its power, its guilt, its woe; and you look upon it with abhorrence. . . . It is peace that you need—Heaven’s forgiveness and peace and love in the soul. Money cannot buy it, intellect cannot procure it, wisdom cannot attain to it; you can never hope, by your own efforts, to secure it. But God offers it to you as a gift, ‘without money and without price’ (Isaiah 55:1). It is yours if you will but reach out your hand and grasp it. . . . You have confessed your sins, and in heart put them away. You have resolved to give yourself to God. Now go to Him, and ask that He will wash away your sins and give you a new heart.”—*Steps to Christ*, p. 49.

- b. What was Enoch’s experience of faith in Christ? Genesis 5:22; Hebrews 11:6.

“The men of that generation mocked the folly of him who sought not to gather gold or silver, or to build up possessions here. But Enoch’s heart was upon eternal treasures. He had looked upon the celestial city. He had seen the King in His glory in the midst of Zion. The greater the existing iniquity, the more earnest was his longing for the home of God. While still on earth, he dwelt by faith in the realms of light.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 53.

2. FIXED UPON WHOM?

- a. Upon whom is our faith to be fixed? Hebrews 12:2; Galatians 3:26.

“Christ, who connects earth with heaven, is the ladder. The base is planted firmly on the earth in His humanity; the topmost round reaches to the throne of God in His divinity. The humanity of Christ embraces fallen humanity, while His divinity lays hold upon the throne of God.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 147.

- b. What is the connection between faith and works? James 2:17–26.

“A mere profession of discipleship is of no value. The faith in Christ which saves the soul is not what it is represented to be by many. ‘Believe, believe,’ they say, ‘and you need not keep the law.’ But a belief that does not lead to obedience is presumption. . . . [1 John 2:4 quoted.] Let none cherish the idea that special providences or miraculous manifestations are to be the proof of the genuineness of their work or of the ideas they advocate. When persons will speak lightly of the word of God, and set their impressions, feelings, and exercises above the divine standard, we may know that they have no light in them.”—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 146.

“But faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan’s counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God’s promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God, and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequence of their sin. It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 126.

3. TRUST AND OBEY

- a. If we have true faith in our Redeemer, what will be our experience? 1 Peter 1:19.

“Obedience is the test of discipleship. It is the keeping of the commandments that proves the sincerity of our professions of love. When the doctrine we accept kills sin in the heart, purifies the soul from defilement, bears fruit unto holiness, we may know that it is the truth of God. When benevolence, kindness, tenderheartedness, sympathy, are manifest in our lives; when the joy of right doing is in our hearts; when we exalt Christ, and not self, we may know that our faith is of the right order. ‘Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments’ (1 John 2:3).”—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 146, 147.

“It is not enough to believe *about* Christ; we must believe *in* Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion. But saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 261 (author’s italics).

- b. What does faith do with doubt?

“Faith takes God at His word, not asking to understand the meaning of the trying experiences that come. But there are many who have little faith. They are always fearing and borrowing trouble. . . . Do they well to be thus unbelieving? Jesus is their friend. All heaven is interested in their welfare, and their fear and repining grieve the Holy Spirit. Not because we see or feel that God hears us are we to believe. We are to trust His promises. When we come to Him in faith, we should believe that every petition enters into the heart of Christ. When we have asked for His blessing, we should believe that we receive it, and thank Him that we have it. Then we are to go about our duties, assured that the blessing will be sent when we need it most. . . .

“Often the Christian life is beset with dangers, and duty seems hard to perform. . . . Yet the voice of God speaks clearly, Go forward. Let us obey the command, even though our sight cannot penetrate the darkness.”—*Gospel Workers*, pp. 261, 262.

4. JESUS' QUESTION

- a. What was Jesus' question regarding the last days? Luke 18:8; 1 Timothy 4:1.

“Jesus asked the significant question, [Luke 18:8 quoted]. And, as we have seen, He declares that the state of the world will be as in the days of Noah. Paul warns us that we may look for wickedness to increase as the end draws near. . . . And he gives a startling list of sins that will be found among those who have a form of godliness.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 103.

“Our Lord asked the question, ‘When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?’ He will find men full of plans; there will be plenty of resolutions as to what shall and what shall not be done; but will He find the faith upon the earth, the love for Christ and for one another, that He values above everything else? I fear many who claim to be children of God are showing the unbelief of the world, and are saying by their coldness, their want of love for one another, that Jesus is not abiding in their hearts by faith.”—*The Review and Herald*, May 6, 1890.

- b. What warnings did Christ give us? 2 Timothy 3:1–5.

“Spirituality deadened, humility and childlike simplicity gone, a mechanical, formal profession of faith has taken the place of love and devotion. Is this mournful condition of things to continue? is the lamp of God's love to go out in darkness? The Saviour calls; listen to His voice: ‘Be zealous and repent.’ Repent, confess your sins, and you will be forgiven. ‘Turn ye, turn ye; for why will ye die?’ Why will you try to rekindle a mere fitful fire, and walk in the sparks of your own kindling?”—*The Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890.

- c. What will be the answer to His question? Revelation 14:12.

“The world has never been left without witnesses to the mighty power of God to save from sin. And in the closing scenes of this earth's history, when iniquity will have reached a height never before attained, it will still be possible to say of the remnant people who have remained true to God, ‘Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’”—*The Review and Herald*, July 24, 1913.

5. A CHECKLIST

- a. What should you and I ask about faith? 2 Corinthians 13:5; James 1:22, 26.
- b. What are the characteristics of true faith? 1 Peter 1:5–8; James 2:14–20.

“The genuineness of [Sabbathkeepers'] faith will be proved. . . . Some of them have been a miserable example to unbelievers. They have not been willing to give up the world, but have united with them, have attended picnics, and other gatherings of pleasure, flattering themselves that they were engaged in innocent amusement. Yet I was shown that it was just such indulgences that separate them from God and make them children of the world.”—*The Review and Herald*, August 27, 1861.

“A true believer shows that his character has been transformed by living a spiritual life, by living on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. His consecration is shown by the words that fall from his lips and by his zeal in good works. Has the hearing of the word humbled our pride? Has it wrought repentance in the soul? Do the fruits of righteousness appear in our lives, shown by our holy conversation?”—*Ibid.*, January 25, 1898.

“Here is the true test. If we abide in Christ, if the love of God dwells in us, our feelings, our thoughts, our purposes, our actions, will be in harmony with the will of God as expressed in the precepts of His holy law. [1 John 3:7 quoted.] . . . That so-called faith in Christ which professes to release men from the obligation of obedience to God, is not faith, but presumption.”—*Steps to Christ*, p. 61.

- c. How can we have this kind of faith? Revelation 3:19, 20; John 14:23.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How important is faith in your life and why?
2. Upon whom is your faith to be fixed?
3. What does true faith include?
4. What can you expect to see around you in these last days?
5. How can you check your own life for true faith?

The Specifics

“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample” (Philippians 3:17).

“The unstudied, unconscious influence of a holy life is the most convincing sermon that can be given in favor of Christianity.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 511.

Suggested Readings: *The Adventist Home*, pp. 211–219.
My Life Today, pp. 98, 121, 122.

Sunday

June 15

1. ENOCH AS . . .

- a. **It sounds very wonderful to read of Enoch’s experience, but we want to know what was he like as a person in everyday life. How did Enoch act as a husband? Hebrews 11:5 (last part).**

“Enoch did not close himself within monastic walls in order to keep pure. He did not build up a wall of separation between himself and his fellow men. Had he done so, the world would not have seen his light, that God was manifest in him. He was to reveal what man may be when connected with the source of all power. He had home religion. He walked with God when engaged in his business, and in the associations of his daily life. He was a husband and father, and he exemplified what a husband and father should be under the guidance and control of Christ.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, February 25, 1897.

- b. **Husbands, your role and the character which God wants to be yours, how can they be best described? Ephesians 4:25, 28, 29.**

“There are men in this church who feel that they should teach the truth to others, while they are fretful, impatient, and faultfinding in their own families. Such need that one teach them, until they become patient, God-fearing men at home. They need to learn the first principles of true religion.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 612.

Monday

June 16

2. ENOCH AS A FATHER

- a. **With Enoch so busy as a preacher of righteousness, how did he treat his children? Deuteronomy 6:2, 5–9; Malachi 4:6.**

“The father who is the ‘house band’ of the family will bind his children to the throne of God by living faith. Distrusting his own strength, he hangs his helpless soul on Jesus and takes hold of the strength of the Most High. Brethren, pray at home, in your family, night and morning; pray earnestly in your closet; and while engaged in your daily labor, lift up the soul to God in prayer. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. The silent, fervent prayer of the soul will rise like holy incense to the throne of grace and will be as acceptable to God as if offered in the sanctuary. To all who thus seek Him, Christ becomes a present help in time of need. They will be strong in the day of trial.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 616.

- b. **What is the role of the father in the home? 1 Timothy 3:2–7; Colossians 3:12–17.**

“The husband and father is the head of the household. The wife looks to him for love and sympathy and for aid in the training of the children; and this is right. The children are his as well as hers, and he is equally interested in their welfare. The children look to the father for support and guidance; he needs to have a right conception of life and of the influences and associations that should surround his family; above all, he should be controlled by the love and fear of God and by the teaching of His word, that he may guide the feet of his children in the right way. . . . The father should do his part toward making home happy. Whatever his cares and business perplexities, they should not be permitted to overshadow his family; he should enter his home with smiles and pleasant words.

“All members of the family center in the father. He is the law-maker, illustrating in his own manly bearing the sterner virtues: energy, integrity, honesty, patience, courage, diligence, and practical usefulness. The father is in one sense the priest of the household, laying upon the altar of God the morning and evening sacrifice. The wife and children should be encouraged to unite in this offering and also to engage in the song of praise.”—*The Adventist Home*, pp. 211, 212.

3. ENOCH AS A FRIEND

- a. What method of missionary work is the most successful? Matthew 7:12; Hebrews 12:14.

“In the family and in his intercourse with men, as a husband and father, a friend, a citizen, [Enoch] was the steadfast, unwavering servant of the Lord. His heart was in harmony with God’s will; for ‘can two walk together, except they be agreed?’”—*The Review and Herald*, April 15, 1909.

- b. What are other aspects of building good, personal relationships? Proverbs 18:24; Titus 3:8; Acts 17:2. Is it more important to build a friend or to warn the individual of the Lord’s will?

“The church needs men today who, like Enoch, walk with God, revealing Christ to the world. Church members need to reach a higher standard. Heavenly messengers are waiting to communicate with men who have sunk self out of sight, whose lives are a fulfilling of the words, ‘I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.’ Of such men and women must the church be composed before her light can shine forth to the world in clear, distinct rays. . . . To those who handle sacred things comes the solemn injunction, ‘Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord.’ The church needs men of devotion to bear to the world the message of salvation, pointing men to the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world, men who by their works of righteousness and their pure, true words can lift their fellow men out of the pit of degradation.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, p. 404.

“Be sure to maintain the dignity of the work by a well-ordered life and godly conversation. Never be afraid of raising the standard too high. The families who engage in the missionary work should come close to hearts. The spirit of Jesus should pervade the souls of the worker; it is the pleasant, sympathetic words, the manifestation of disinterested love for their souls, that will break down the barriers of pride and selfishness, and show to unbelievers that we have the love of Christ; and then the truth will find its way to the heart. This is our work, and the fulfilling of God’s plan.”—*Canvasser*, December 18, 1890.

4. ENOCH AS A CITIZEN

- a. What attitude did Enoch have towards his fellow citizens? Romans 12:8; Jeremiah 50:6; Matthew 10:6–14.

“During His ministry, Jesus had kept constantly before the disciples the fact that they were to be one with Him in His work for the recovery of the world from the slavery of sin. When He sent forth the Twelve and afterward the Seventy, to proclaim the kingdom of God, He was teaching them their duty to impart to others what He had made known to them. In all His work He was training them for individual labor, to be extended as their numbers increased, and eventually to reach to the uttermost parts of the earth. The last lesson He gave His followers was that they held in trust for the world the glad tidings of salvation.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 32.

“God desires the willing service of our hearts. He has endowed us with reasoning faculties, with talents of ability, and with means and influence, to be exercised for the good of mankind, that we may manifest His spirit before the world.”—*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 127.

- b. What should we remember about our life and duty? 1 Thessalonians 2:10; 1 Timothy 2:1–4; Titus 2:12.

“The isolated brethren and sisters should feel it their duty and privilege to be light-bearers in every sense of the word, because they are the only ones in their vicinity who see the importance of the truth. If they lead faithful, self-denying lives, laboring for others in the spirit which actuated Christ, they will have help from Heaven; angels will be at their side. Whatsoever they ask, they receive of God, because they keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. These will be the true Calebs in the church. They may never give a lecture or preach a sermon; yet they have their work to do, and are successful laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. They have a transforming influence. These men draw nigh to God in prayer; their closets are often visited; their supplications move the arm of God. They reach the people through His power, and receive special grace to win souls to Jesus.”—*The Review and Herald*, December 18, 1883.

5. THE POTENTIAL

- a. Have you ever considered the potential of one consecrated individual? What will happen if we make that commitment? 1 Timothy 4:12. For what are we waiting?

“There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.”—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 250, 251.

“By the atmosphere surrounding us, every person with whom we come in contact is consciously or unconsciously affected. . . . Our words, our acts, our dress, our deportment, even the expression of the countenance, has an influence. . . . Every impulse thus imparted is seed sown which will produce its harvest. It is a link in the long chain of human events, extending we know not whither. If by our example we aid others in the development of good principles, we give them power to do good. In their turn they exert the same influence upon others, and they upon still others. Thus by our unconscious influence thousands may be blessed.

“Throw a pebble into the lake, and a wave is formed; and another and another; and as they increase, the circle widens, until it reaches the very shore. So with our influence. . . . And the wider the sphere of our influence the more good we may do. When those who profess to serve God follow Christ’s example, practicing the principles of the law in their daily life; when every act bears witness that they love God supremely and their neighbor as themselves, then will the church have power to move the world.”—*My Life Today*, p. 121.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the character required for godly husbands?
2. What is the important work for the Christian father?
3. How can you be a true friend to those around you?
4. What is your responsibility as a citizen?
5. What is the potential of your life?

Our Call

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand” (Revelation 1:3).

“To such communion God is calling us. As was Enoch’s, so must be their holiness of character who shall be redeemed from among men at the Lord’s second coming.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 54.

Suggested Readings: *Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 155.
Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 408–412.

1. PROPHECY’S CLOCK

- a. In what time of history are we living? Matthew 24:32, 33, 35–44.
-
- b. What must be done before Jesus can come? Matthew 24:13.

“Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church so that everyone shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory. ‘This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come’ (Matthew 24:14).”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 111.

- c. Can the coming of Jesus be hastened or accelerated? 2 Peter 3:10–12.

“By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord’s return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Had the church of Christ done her appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would before this have been warned, and the Lord Jesus would have come to our earth in power and great glory.”—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 633, 634.

2. THE MULTITUDES

- a. **How many are waiting to hear the final message from God? Joel 3:14; Matthew 9:36.**

“There are many who are pleading with God that they may understand what is truth. In secret places they are weeping and praying that they may see light in the Scriptures; and the Lord of heaven has commissioned His angels to cooperate with human agencies in carrying forward His vast design, that all who desire light may behold the glory of God. We are to follow where God’s providence opens the way; and as we advance, we shall find that Heaven has moved before us, enlarging the field for labor far beyond the proportion of our means and ability to supply.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 209.

- b. **Where are the faithful? Revelation 18:4; Luke 14:23.**

“Many of the honest in heart are gasping for a breath of life from heaven. They will recognize the gospel when it is brought to them in the beauty and simplicity with which it is presented in God’s word.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 110, 111.

“Notwithstanding the spiritual darkness and alienation from God that exist in the churches which constitute Babylon, the great body of Christ’s true followers are still to be found in their communion.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 390.

“God has jewels in all the churches, and it is not for us to make sweeping denunciation of the professed religious world.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1184.

“The Lord has His representatives in all the churches. These persons have not had the special testing truths for these last days presented to them under circumstances that brought conviction to heart and mind; therefore they have not, by rejecting light, severed their connection with God.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 70, 71.

“Among the Catholics there are many who are most conscientious Christians and who walk in all the light that shines upon them, and God will work in their behalf.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 243.

3. AWAKE

- a. **What does God tell us about our condition in these last days? Matthew 25:1, 6.**

“We are represented either by the wise or the foolish virgins. We cannot now distinguish, nor have we authority to say, who are wise and who foolish. There are those who hold the truth in unrighteousness, and these appear outwardly like the wise.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 16, p. 270.

“When I study the Scriptures, I am alarmed for the Israel of God in these last days. They are exhorted to flee from idolatry. I fear that they are asleep and so conformed to the world that it would be difficult to discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not. The distance is widening between Christ and His people, and lessening between them and the world. The marks of distinction between Christ’s professed people and the world have almost disappeared. Like ancient Israel, they follow after the abominations of the nations around them.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 277.

“God’s people will be tested and proved. The plain and pointed testimony must act a prominent part in this work. In these days of darkness and peril, who is able to stand and speak the whole truth? Multitudes of teachers prophesy smooth things. They see no special cause of alarm in the present condition of the professed people of God. The people are asleep, and the teachers are asleep. They cry, Peace, peace, and the multitude that hear believe their report and are at ease. This makes the necessity greater for faithful teachers to bear the pointed, faithful testimony.”—*The Review and Herald*, November 26, 1861.

- b. **What is God’s instruction to us? Romans 13:11.**

“We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work. The world is a lazar house filled with victims of both physical and spiritual disease. Everywhere people are perishing for lack of a knowledge of the truths that have been committed to us. The members of the church are in need of an awakening, that they may realize their responsibility to impart these truths.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 62.

4. GO TO WORK!

- a. What instruction is connected with spiritual awakening? Matthew 20:6, 7; 21:28.

“The great enemy of souls would be pleased if we were kept busy with things of but little importance, and so should lose our present opportunities for labor. We need now to awake out of sleep, and to labor earnestly to warn those in the highways and in the byways. Soon the work will be finished, and now is our time to labor with intense energy and untiring industry.

“The judgments of God are in the earth and, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, we must give the message of warning that He has entrusted to us. We must give this message quickly, line upon line, precept upon precept. Men will soon be forced to great decisions, and it is our duty to see that they are given an opportunity to understand the truth, that they may take their stand intelligently on the right side. The Lord calls upon His people to labor—labor earnestly and wisely—while probation lingers.”—*The Southern Watchman*, April 16, 1907.

- b. How soon should we begin to work and what preparation do we need? Mark 16:15.

“A great and solemn work is before the members of every church. They are to come close to Christ in self-denial and self-sacrifice, their one aim being to give God’s message of mercy to their fellow men. Let them labor guardedly and with humility, each having respect for the work of the others. Some can labor in one way and some in another, as the Lord may call and lead them. But let none mourn that they cannot glorify God in the use of talents that He has not entrusted to their keeping. God holds us responsible only for the work that He has placed in our hands. One thing all can do: They can avoid making the work of others unnecessarily hard by criticizing their efforts, putting stones in front of the car their brethren are trying to push uphill. If any are unwilling to put their shoulder to the wheel, let them at least refrain from hindering those who are working. God calls for laborers who will refuse to discourage their fellow laborers.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, pp. 237, 238.

5. GOD’S POWER AVAILABLE TO ALL!

- a. How can we accomplish the great task ahead of us? Isaiah 41:10; 40:29; Zechariah 4:6.

“All heaven is interested in our welfare and waits our demand upon its wisdom and strength. Neither wicked men nor evil spirits can hinder the work of God or shut out His presence from His people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His promises. Every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, ‘not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.’ If the Lord had a company of workers who would rely wholly upon Him, He would accomplish a great work through them. One could chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight. God is just as willing now as anciently to work through human efforts, and to accomplish great things through weak instrumentalities. We shall not gain the victory through numbers, but through full surrender of the soul to Jesus. We are to go forward in His strength, trusting in the mighty God of Israel.”—*The Review and Herald*, January 11, 1887.

- b. What is ahead as we walk with God as Enoch did? Matthew 5:8.

“For three hundred years Enoch had been seeking purity of heart, that he might be in harmony with heaven. For three centuries he had walked with God. Day by day he had longed for a closer union; nearer and nearer had grown the communion, until God took him to Himself. He had stood at the threshold of the eternal world, only a step between him and the land of the blest. . . . To such communion God is calling us. As was Enoch’s, so must be their holiness of character who shall be redeemed from among men at the Lord’s second coming.”—*Gospel Workers*, pp. 53, 54.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How should we consider the time in which we live?
2. What should you remember as you meet people day by day?
3. What is our great need in these last days?
4. Who is being called to the work?
5. What is the wonderful experience awaiting those who subject themselves to God’s wonderful power?

FIRST SABBATH OFFERINGS



APRIL 5
Madrid, Spain
(See p. 4.)

MAY 3
Mission Work in Asia
(See p. 25.)



JUNE 7
Ecuador
(See p. 51.)

