

## Cell Group Lesson: The Eclipse

**Ice Breaker:** What vegetable do you dislike the most and will not eat, no matter what?

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**Facilitator's Comments:** Let's start our discussion with a brief astronomy lesson...Let's read about a Lunar Eclipse.

### Read

#### **The Definition of a Lunar Eclipse**

The Moon is a cold, rocky mass about 2,160 miles in diameter. It has no light of its own, but shines by sunlight reflected from its surface. But two to four times each year, the Moon passes through some portion of the Earth's shadow and a partial or total Lunar Eclipse occurs, spreading darkness slowly across the face of the Moon.

**Facilitator's Comments:** Spiritually, we are much like the moon. Our lives were cold and rocky until one day the warm light of the Son, Jesus, came into our lives. Now we are to reflect the saving light of Jesus to this darkened World. Let's read about it in John 12:46...

### Read

**John 12:46** - I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. NKJV

**Facilitator's Comments:** The Light of Christ is to shine on us and then we reflect His light upon the World. We are reminded of this in Matthew 5:14 and Matthew 5:16, let's read these two verses...

### Read

**Matthew 5:14** - "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." NKJV

**Question:** What does it mean to be "the light of the world?"

**Answer:** We are to reflect the Lord's light to this world in our testimony and daily lives.

**Facilitator's Comments:** Let's read how we glorify our Heavenly Father, in Matthew 5:16....

### Read

**Matthew 5:16** - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. KJV

**Question:** How do we glorify our Father in heaven when we let our light shine?

**Answer:** People are able to see our 'good works' for the Lord and the Lord gets the glory.

**Facilitator's Comments:** Our constant challenge is keeping the Lord's light reflecting and shining in our lives and keeping ourselves out of the shadows of this world. With this in mind, let's read our 1<sup>st</sup> Commentary..

### Read

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Commentary**

Like the Lunar Eclipse, physically, when we allow the *world* to get between the **Son**, and **ourselves**, spiritually, then darkness slowly starts to spread across our lives and souls and we start to lose our direction, purpose and

peace with God. In Matthew 13:22, it says "*Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.*" NKJV

**Question:** What types of "cares of this world" can cause our light to not shine as bright, causing us to become unfruitful?

**Answer:** Everyday family issues, relationships of all types, working and paying bills, etc.

**Question:** How can the '*cares of this world*' affect our walk with God?

**Answer:** It gets our focus off of seeking first the Kingdom of God.

**Facilitator's Comments:** Now, let's read about ***the true value*** of this world, in our 2<sup>nd</sup> commentary.

### Read

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Commentary:

Receiving and reflecting God's light completely is the only truly satisfying activity in our lives. The *World* is not worth losing *our light* in its shadow. **1 Timothy 6:7** reminds us of this fact, when it says, "*For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*" NKJV

**Facilitator's Comments:** Let's read about a tragic life that once shone bright for the Lord....When Paul writes to Timothy and mentions a person named Demas.

### Read

**2 Timothy 4:10** - for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica--Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

**Facilitator's Comments:** Let's read about why Demas let the things of this World come between himself and his God. Let's read the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commentary

### Read

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Commentary

Before Demas left Paul, he was described as a '*fellow laborer*' in the book of Philemon, verse 24. But something happened to change Demas from a "*fellow laborer*" to a "*forsaker of Paul*." Some believe that Demas left because he loved the things of his "present" world more than the spiritual things of God. "Demas" means "*popular*" and living for Christ was not popular in New Testament times. Others believe that Demas was not willing to pay the price that it looked like Paul was going to pay, the price of a martyr. Demas was not willing to lose his life with Paul, so he went back to the safety of his **present** home in Thessalonica and forsook his **future** home in Heaven.

**Question:** Why is being professing to be a Christian, sometimes not very accepted by others?

**Answer:** Sometimes it makes people feel uncomfortable when we show them that we can live in a way that is not of this world.

**Facilitator's Comments:** Now, let's discuss how to keep the *World* out from between our God and ourselves so that we can keep the Lord's light shining in our lives...Let's read Hebrews 12:1..

### Read

**Hebrews 12:1** - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, NKJV

**Questions:** What is the difference between a weight and sin?

**Answer:** A weight can be any issue or problem in our lives, but is not necessarily a sin.

**Question:** Give examples of issues or problems that you consider to be a "weight" in our walk with God?

**Answer:** Becoming a workaholic, getting too caught up in your hobbies and leisurely activities.

**Question:** If a 'weight' is not a sin, why do we still have to "lay it aside?"

**Answer:** Because a "weight" in our lives can slow down our growth in God and our usefulness for Him. We can become 'unbalanced' in our walk with God.

**Question:** How do we lay aside "every weight?"

**Answer:** By in prayer, taking a constant inventory of our lives to see what could be hindering us from running at *full speed* for the Lord.

**Facilitator's Comments:** The Bible tells us that we need to lay aside the weight and sin that can so "*easily ensnares*" or traps us and additionally, the Bible tells us that there are other things that we need to "*lay aside.*" We find these things listed in 1 Peter 2:1...

### Read

**1 Peter 2:1** - Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, NKJV

**Question:** How do the things listed in 1 Peter 2:1, cause the light from the Son, Jesus, to be blocked out of our lives?

**Answer:** Our hearts are full of things that are not pleasing to God and we are out of *harmony* with the Family of God.

**Facilitator's Comments:** We can be fooled into "thinking" we are in the light, when we are really be in darkness ... let's read how in **1 John 2:9**..

### Read

**1 John 2:9** - He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. NKJV

**Facilitator's Comments:** We can "say" we are walking in God's light, but if can't get along with our brothers and sisters, then we aren't really walking in His light. Let's read how the "light" and "fellowship" are related in 1 John 1:7...

### Read

**1 John 1:7** - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship one with another**, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. KJV

**Question:** What is one of the results we have when we "walk in the light?"

**Answer:** We are in fellowship with our Brothers and Sisters. And the Cleansing Blood of the Lord flows in our lives.

**Facilitator's Comments:** We fight in a spiritual warfare and we want to please the "Captain of our Salvation." In 2 Timothy 2:4, it tells us how we please the Lord ...let's read our 4<sup>th</sup> and final commentary for this lesson..

### Read

**4<sup>th</sup> Commentary:** It says in, **2 Timothy 2:4**, "*No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*"<sup>NKJV</sup> Satan wants to keep us busy and "entangled with the affairs of this life" so that we will take our minds off of caring about our light and how bright it's shining for the Lord. We can please the Lord by keeping ourselves free from the entanglements in this life.

**Facilitator's Final Comments:**

How brightly are you reflecting the light of God? Have you allowed the orbit of the "*World*" to gradually come between you and your relationship with God? Are unforgiveness, regrets or the other "cares of this life" stopping the rays of the Lord from reflecting in your life?

Let's stand and pray and ask God to re-direct our focus on what's important and ask the Lord to reveal anything that we are allowing to block God's full light from shining on us, so that we can do our part in bringing His marvelous light to this dark world that so desperately needs Him.

# Cell Group Reading Material

## The Eclipse

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