

News Story Summary

On Monday, August 21, 2017, North America experienced a solar eclipse. Anyone within the path of totality could see one of nature's most awe-inspiring and rare sights: a total solar eclipse. The path of the eclipse, where the moon completely covered the sun and the sun's tenuous atmosphere, stretched from Salem, Oregon to Charleston, South Carolina. Observers outside this path still saw a partial solar eclipse where the moon covers part of the sun's disk. Many school systems closed so that parents and their children could experience this phenomenon together, and some people traveled great distances to be in the direct path of the eclipse. Amateur astronomers and photographers were giddy about this opportunity

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term "2017 solar eclipse.")

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, remind the group of the recent solar eclipse. Allow time for group members to share their own eclipse experiences being careful to limit the time for sharing. Comment: *We knew ahead of time that the eclipse would take place on August 21 because of the knowledge and research of experts. However, in our study of Exodus 3 today, we'll examine a time when Moses experienced a unique occurrence -- an undeniable God-moment -- that totally took him by surprise.*

Challenge the group to look for Moses' response to God revealing Himself and what that response revealed about Moses.

Challenge

To supplement the Summary and Challenge ideas, comment: *God's majesty and power were clearly observed during the eclipse. The darkening of the sky, the sounds of night creatures in the middle of the day, the beauty of the eclipse itself, followed by the shadows cast by the sun and moon left many speechless.* Remind group members of Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush and his initial reluctance to follow the path God laid out for him.

Lead the group to silently consider their responses to these questions:

- When have you encountered God in an undeniable way? What was your response?
- When have you questioned that God could really use you in His grand plan?
- How has God assured you through the process?

Close the session by voicing a prayer of surrender. Thank God for His personal call on the life of every believer and ask Him to empower each person to serve Him in whatever way He calls.