

## See Through Scotoma

July 12-13, 2012

### I. WELCOME, 15 mins.

Plan one to two icebreakers for the purpose of mixing around and getting group participation or getting acquainted.

### II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.

Prayerfully choose a few songs to lead people into God's presence. During this time, cell leaders will encourage cell members to listen to the Holy Spirit and release the words of **strengthening, encouragement, and comfort** they have received for the **cell group, the church and nations**. Upon each word shared, the cell leader will lead members by thanking and praising God for His promise and/or praying aloud together for the needs, etc.

During this time, the cell leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for: (1) the mission organization or daughter church that the cell group adopts (2) the church ministry needs (3) blessings for new comers, the sick.

**MISSION ORGANIZATION:** \_\_\_\_\_, their needs: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please contact the church if you don't know the needs of the mission organization.)

#### CHURCH MINISTRY:

7/21 Combined Cell Group BBQ @ Ortega park in Sunnyvale  
7/28 Intern cell leader training @ 9:30am - 4:30pm  
7/31-8/5 Inner Healing Conference

### III. WORD, 45 mins.

#### A. Sharing from last Sunday's message.

1. What is the main message from last Sunday sermon? What did God say to you from the message?
2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

#### B. Discussion Topic: "See Through Scotomas"

**Scriptures:** Matthews 7:3

**Memory Verse:** Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? (Matthew 7:3 NIV)

### I. The Familiar Stranger

A scotoma is an area of partial alteration in one's field of vision. It's consisted of a partially diminished or entirely degenerated visual acuity that is surrounded by a field of normal. Every normal mammalian eye has a scotoma in its field of vision, usually termed as blind spot. When both eyes are open, visual signals that are absent in the blind spot of one eye are provided from the opposite visual cortex for the other eye, even when the other eye is closed.

The term scotoma is also used metaphorically in psychology to refer to an individual's inability to perceive personality traits in themselves that are obvious to others. Theoretically, we believe we know ourselves better than anyone else. I am the only one who knows I once slipped down to the ditch when I was little. I am the only one who knows where I hide my first love letter. Though I may appear to laugh light-heartedly, deep down inside, I am the only one who knows I am in a gloomy solitude. Only I know my computer's log in password, and only I know how the embarrassment happened when I was seventeen...

Ironically, I am also a stranger to myself. I have no clue as why I become stuttered when I see the one I have a crush on? I am not sure if I studied the right major or am in the right industry? I don't understand why I dumped in all my cash and spent on a stereo sound system? As for Mary, I know she's a great person, but I got annoyed every time she appears before me.

There is even blind spots in our spiritual eyes – Prophet Malachi rebuked the Israelites for lacking self-awareness:

- The Lord says: Where is the honor and respect due me? (Mal.1:6)
- But you say: How have we shown contempt for your name?
- The Lord says: I am not pleased, for you sacrifice with crippled or looted animals. (Mal.1:13)
- But you say: What a burden! And you sniff at it contemptuously.
- The Lord says: You have turned away from my decrees and now you should return to me. (Mal. 3:7)
- But you say: How are we to turn?
- The Lord says: Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. (Mal. 3:8)
- But you say: How do we rob you?
- The Lord says: You have said harsh things against me. (Mal. 3:13)
- But you say: What have we said against you?

Can you come up with one example that shows how people tend to be lack of self-awareness? Do you know why people have such judgmental attitude towards others without acknowledging their own problems?

### II. Only Sees One Side of the Coin

A color-blind person is confined in his inability to differentiate colors, while

normal people get to enjoy the life of multiple colors. While an ordinary person is restricted to his daily trifles, a talented writer sees the pulse of life among monger and pawn. Just as you are contemplating over the gorgeous scene of the setting sun, a philosopher may apprehend the analogy behind the majestic hue. We all witness the result, but only a great thinker perceives the cause.

One of the most significant meanings being a Christian is that our belief will elevate our vision. It enables us to not only see one side of the coin but the flip side of it.

Taking marriage as an instance –

One Side	Flip Side	Explanation
Finding a spouse	Seeking a spiritual partner	Husbands...live with wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life. (2 Peter 3:7)
Having offspring	Having godly offspring	Has not [the Lord] made them one?...Because he was seeking godly offspring. (Mal.2:15)
Loving each other	Experiencing the love of Christ	Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. (Eph. 5:25)
Enjoy husband-and-wife relationship	Experiencing the relationship between Christ and the church	This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. (Eph. 5:32)
Uniting of 2 people	Experiencing the unity of Christ and me	For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. (Eph. 5:31)
Wives obey husbands	Understanding how we should obey our Lord	Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. (Eph. 5:22)
Being parents of your children	Understanding God is our Heavenly Father	Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! (Hew. 12-9)

Please share with your cell group if you are inspired by the scriptures quoted above. Do you see a way that will help us to overcome the spiritual or psychological blind spots?

### III. We view things as we are

It is a fitting analogy to show when we are pointing finger at others, 3 fingers are pointing right back at ourselves. We don't see things as they are; we see

them as we are.

- If he insists on a point, he is being stubborn; as for me, I am been tenacious.
- If he fails, he deserves what he got; as for me, I am under evaluated.
- If he stays in bed late, he's a sloth; as for me, I am preserving my energy.
- If he criticizes, he shows partiality; as for me, I am telling the piercing truth.
- If he spent all his paycheck in 10 days, he's a squander; as for me, I am generous.
- If he is being frolic, he's a prank; as for me, I am humorous.
- If he has a fine sense of etiquette, he is cunning; as for me, I am appropriate and mature.
- If he explodes, he is out of temper; as for me, I pours righteous indignation.
- If he misses details, he is absent-minded; as for me, I see the big picture.
- If he is being nosy, he minds other's business; as for me, I uphold the justice by showing my support.
- if he changes course, he is sporadic; as for me, I know to grab the right opportunity at the right time.
- If he gets married abruptly, he is grabbing whatever he can; s for me, I am a quick decision maker who can catch a rare opportunity.
- If he takes his time, he's a snail; as for me, I am perfecting my task.
- If he works strenuously, he's workaholics, as for me, I simply enjoy to work.

Continue with the following sentence and share the blanks you filled in:  
If he initiates a job but didn't finish it, he is \_\_\_\_\_; as for me, I am \_\_\_\_\_.

Read Psalm 139: 23-24 and share with everyone how it helps you to know more about yourself.

### IV. Remove your veil

Why it's hard for us to truly know ourselves ?

- As human beings we are naturally reason our own behavior. (Seeking reasons to support, forgive or comfort ourselves.)
- We are all inclined to self-defense. (Being arrogant, self-conscious,

otherwise, it hurts our ego.) While this inclination may be good, we should not be compelled by it, or our true nature can be blocked and leads to a hindrance to spiritual advancement.

- We tend to hold double standard. (We expect more from others than ourselves.)
- We also set a higher bar for others. (It's easier to find fault with others and being subjective, and not putting ourselves in other's shoes.)

Matthews 7: 1 – 5:

Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

How can you say to your brother, "let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

From the aforementioned verses, do you recognize the main reason why we should not judge people?

There are 3 approaches to examine ourselves:

1. To God: Use Bible as a mirror to reflect ourselves.
2. To Ourselves: Being totally humble, try not to self-defense.
3. To Others: Find a trustworthy friend who speaks truth with love.

#### **IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.**

Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other's needs.