



# Cloverfield

PG 13 – 2008

## Overview

Five young New Yorkers throw their friend a going-away party the night a monster of unknown origin descends upon Manhattan. Told from the point of view of their video camera, the film is a document of their attempt to survive.

## Discussion Guide

Themes:

- Sacrificial love is supreme: John 15:13
  - Only with God is there hope: Psalm 46:1-3; Romans 8:35-39
  - Decide now what is important to you: Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Peter 1:23-25
1. This isn't the first movie about a monster attacking New York and it probably won't be the last. Why do you suppose this is a recurring plot? Is there more to it than simple entertainment that seems to work?
  2. *Cloverfield* attempts to show very real reactions to unthinkable events. In Rob and Beth's case, their reaction to eminent danger is to drop all pettiness and cling to what really matters. Who means the most? Who would you run to when the world collapses?
  3. "Some victims need to know what is happening and why. Others don't care. Some run. Some take charge. Others pull out their cell phone cameras to document all they see. Still others loot." (*Christianity Today*). Why are there such different reactions to the same horrible situation?
  4. "The parallels to 9/11 are inescapable. Dust fills the streets of dazed and wandering people. Faces are blank and stunned. It's a portrait of destroyed people completely out of control. These moments are all the more gripping because we've seen such similar footage from very real horrors." (*Christianity Today*). Did you have any sense of God being present in the movie? Or is this a great example of what life might be like without God, in that when disaster strikes there'd be no hope?
  5. How did you feel seeing the head of the Statue of Liberty bouncing down the street? Why does the destruction of national landmarks affect us so?
  6. One reviewer said *Cloverfield* is not about a monster, it's about reactions to a monster. Do you agree? What does this reviewer mean?
  7. How is this "monster" movie different than other "monster" movies?
  8. Another reviewer said, "It doesn't answer all the big questions of what's happening, or where the monster comes from, or why it's here. This is not the

film's mission." What was the film's mission, in your opinion? What were the filmmakers' hoping you'd come away with?

9. What do you think happened to the city? What clues does the movie give you? How do you feel about the ending? What assurances do you have that your future is secure?