

Small Group Discussion Outline



A SUPPLEMENT TO OUR "LIVING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD" SERIES

"The purpose of vision is to create the future"

-George Barna, Barna Ministries

This study is taken from material written by George Barna and supplied with his book "The Power of Vision". These studies are designed to help you explore what the scriptural passage says in its own context, how it relates to key principals of vision and visionary leadership and how you can apply what you have learned. This is the first of three studies we will be working through.

Proverbs 29:18

KING JAMES VERSION: *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION: *Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.*

NEW AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION: *Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.*

NEW LIVING TRANSLATION: *When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is happy.*

THE MESSAGE: *If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.*

REVISED STANDARD VERSION: *Where there is no prophecy the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.*

The Hebrew word *khazon* in Proverbs 29:18 is variously translated "vision", "guidance", "prophecy", and "revelation". Each of these translations underscores the fact that true vision comes only from the Lord.



1. Compare the various translations above and rewrite the verse in your own words.

2. What does this verse say about why you and your church need God's vision for your ministry?

From the following passages of the Old Testament, what can be learned from these people about how the vision God gave them affected their lives?

Vision & Visionary Leadership in the Old Testament

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Read: Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-7; 17:1-15.



- 3. Why did God state and restate three times the vision He gave Abraham?**
- 4. What circumstances and plans in Abraham's life were affected and changed by God's vision for him on each occasion?**



Read: Exodus 3:1-10



- 5. How much strategic detail did God add to the vision He gave Moses (see also Exodus 3:11-22; 4:1-17)?**



Read: Joshua 1:1-5



- 6. How much detail is included in God's vision for Joshua about the direction and goals of God's plan to lead Israel into the Promised Land?**
- 7. How is the additional direction from the Lord in Joshua 1:6-9 related to the vision in Joshua 1:1-5?**
- 8. How important to the vision was identifying and marshalling resources (see Joshua 1:10-15), gathering information (see Joshua 2:1; 2:22-24), and planning strategically (see Joshua 3:1-4; 6:1-7)?**



Read: Nehemiah 1:3-4; 2:4-5; 2:12



- 9. How did Nehemiah receive a vision from the Lord to rebuild the city of Jerusalem?**



Read: 1 Samuel 17:34-37; 17:45-48; 23:15-18



- 10. What attitudes and qualities did David's vision of God's plan for Israel inspire in him?**
- 11. What attitudes should the vision for ministry God gives you and your church inspire in you?**



Read:
(a) Isaiah 1:1; 6:1-10
(b) Jeremiah 1:4-19
(c) Ezekiel 1:1-28; 2:1-10; 3:4-9



- How did God's vision for each of the following prophets cause the prophet to change the way he lived and ministered?**

These studies are intended to be an opportunity for you to join in the process of searching for, discovering, and casting God's vision both in your personal life and in the church.

You are all encouraged to partner with each other in pursuing God's vision for us all. Remember, as an essential family member in our church community, God's plan for His church includes you!

Please pray for each other and for your leaders as they continue to seek God's vision for His Church.

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