



LIFE Group Discussion Guide

August 16, 2026

Proverbs 29:18

CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

OPENING

Have you ever started a project, trip, or goal without a clear plan? What happened?

Whether it's building a house, planning a trip, or leading a family, direction matters. Proverbs 29:18 teaches that people need God's guidance and truth to live wisely and flourish.

Today we'll explore how a life guided by God's truth leads to purpose, direction, and blessing.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Proverbs 29:18 aloud together.

Ask the group to listen for:

- The problem described
- The solution presented
- The result of following God's direction

PASSAGE SUMMARY

This verse is often quoted in discussions about leadership, goals, and vision. While those applications can be helpful, the primary meaning is deeper.

In Proverbs 29:18:

- "Vision" or "revelation" refers to God's revealed truth and guidance.
- "Cast off restraint" or "runs wild" means people live without boundaries or direction.
- "Keeps the law" or "follows divine instruction" refers to obeying God's truth.

The point is not simply that people need a plan, but that people need God's truth to guide their lives.

Without God's wisdom, people tend to drift toward self-centered choices. With God's guidance, they find blessing and stability.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What do you think this verse means by "vision" or "revelation"?

In this context, vision refers to God's revelation, instruction, and truth rather than personal goals or ambitions.

What happens when people live without God's guidance?

They often drift morally, make decisions based only on personal desires, and lose a clear sense of purpose and direction.

What does it mean to "cast off restraint" or "run wild"?

It means living without healthy boundaries, rejecting wisdom, and doing whatever seems right in one's own eyes.

Why do people sometimes resist God's direction and boundaries?

Because they want independence, immediate gratification, or control over their own lives.

How does God's Word provide vision for everyday life?

It gives wisdom for decisions, relationships, priorities, values, and our relationship with God.

The verse says those who keep God's law are blessed. What kind of blessing is being described?

Not necessarily wealth or comfort, but spiritual flourishing, stability, peace, wisdom, and a life aligned with God's purposes.

How have you experienced the benefits of following God's guidance in your own life?

Allow group members to share personal examples of God's direction, wisdom, and faithfulness.

APPLICATION**In what area of your life do you most need God's direction right now?**

Encourage honest reflection about family, work, finances, relationships, ministry, or future decisions.

Are there any areas where you have been relying more on your own wisdom than on God's truth?

Invite participants to identify places where greater surrender or obedience is needed.

What is one practical step you can take this week to seek God's guidance more intentionally?

Examples:

- Spend dedicated time in Scripture
- Pray specifically about a decision
- Seek wise counsel
- Obey a truth God has already revealed

DIG DEEPER

Why is it dangerous to separate "vision" from God's Word?

How does our culture encourage people to "cast off restraint" or "run wild"?

What are some signs that a person is drifting spiritually?

How can believers help one another stay focused on God's truth?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Many people spend their lives searching for direction while ignoring the One who provides it.

God has not left us without guidance. He has given us His Word, His Spirit, and His wisdom.

Ask:

Am I building my life on God's truth or my own understanding?

Where is God calling me to greater obedience?

Challenge your LIFE group members to spend intentional time seeking God's direction through His Word before making important decisions this week.

Remember, a clear vision for life begins with a clear commitment to God's truth.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next week we will discuss **Matthew 5:13-15** as we begin a new series, *The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached: The Sermon on the Mount*.

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God for providing wisdom and direction through His Word.
- Ask Him to help us recognize and follow His guidance.
- Pray for obedience in areas where He is calling us to trust Him.
- Pray for wisdom for our families, church, and community.
- Pray specifically for the invitation portion of our worship services—that hearts will be open, the Spirit will move powerfully, and people will respond in obedience to Christ.

COMMENTARY

Proverbs 29:18

"Without Revelation": The Hebrew word for revelation is *chazown*, which typically refers to prophetic or divine vision. In the context of the CSB, this refers to the inspired word of God—His direct communication. It highlights that humanity needs divine truth to know how to live.

"People Run Wild": Unlike the KJV phrase *"the people perish,"* the CSB translates the Hebrew verb *para* to mean letting loose, acting without restraint, or running wild. This parallels Exodus 32:25, where the Israelites threw off moral boundaries when left

without divine instruction. When society lacks God's revealed truth, moral chaos ensues.

"Listen to Instruction": The second half of the proverb highlights the solution. Listening to and heeding divine instruction aligns a person with God's plan.

"Will Be Happy": True blessing and happiness (flourishing) are found strictly within the boundaries of God's wisdom.

Applying the Text

Commentators note that this proverb teaches there is a direct correlation between a society's or individual's moral state and their submission to God's Word. Rather than functioning as a mandate for casting entrepreneurial or corporate vision, it is a warning that humanity requires moral boundaries established by God to avoid moral decay.