



# Bible Study Discussion Guide

How to Get Your Vision Back  
Preparing for Your Future

*“When he came near, Jesus asked him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ ‘Lord, I want to see!’ he replied. Jesus said to him, ‘Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.’” Luke 18:40-42 (NIV)*

## LESSON ONE

People often lose the vision for their lives and see no hope for their future, and the current environment of economic problems and job cutbacks makes that situation worse. But the way we see life is how we will experience it, so if we have no dream we will shrivel up.

**Proverbs 29:18** confirms this: “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” God doesn’t want us to drift in life – he wants us to thrive.

### WHAT EXACTLY IS A VISION?

#### **Common definitions:**

- a) Sight; the power of seeing
- b) Ability to sense color, shape, size, or brightness
- c) A dream
- d) A trance
- e) A thought or concept
- f) A manifestation
- g) A supernatural appearance
- h) A revelation
- i) Other:

*Why is it important for people to have a vision for their lives?*

*In what ways can a person have a wrong vision for their life or future? Give an example.*

*Why do you think people will perish if they have no vision?*

**READ Luke 18:35-43**



Jesus tells a parable of a blind beggar who lived a miserable poor life without a vision, but who experienced a miracle and got his life in control by telling Jesus exactly what he wanted and then receiving God's vision for his life.

Our goal here is to learn how to see our future from God's point of view, because how we see our life will determine our stress, success, strength, and stability. We'll use this parable from Luke 18 to help understand God's process for getting our own life back in control by asking for and receiving God's vision for our life.

## **1. HOPE: BELIEVE JESUS CAN CHANGE MY SITUATION**

*According to Luke 18:35-36, what was the blind man doing?*

S \_\_\_\_\_ , B \_\_\_\_\_ , L \_\_\_\_\_ , and A \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Read Psalm 1:1**      **What is the significance of:**

WALKING  
STANDING  
SITTING

*According to Luke 18:37-39, what was the blind man doing when Jesus was passing by?*

C \_\_\_\_\_    0 \_\_\_\_\_    He wanted a CHANGE!

**Read Romans 10:17 and Galatians 3:2**

The beggar obviously had HEARD something about Jesus!

- Describe how hope played a key role in the blind man's situation.
- What are some of the wrong places people put their hope and faith?

**What is your personal application?**

## **LESSON TWO**



*“He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Luke 18:38-39 NIV*

You must ignore all the negative voices around you if you’re going to get your vision back—if you’re going to see where you’re supposed to go with the rest of your life. Most people go through life without any vision. And they don’t want you having any vision either. They don’t want you to have a dream for your life. They don’t want you to have a goal for your life. They don’t want you to go after the brass ring because they’re not doing it. And there are negative voices all around you that will pull you back.

If you’re going to break out of drifting in the next decade and you’re going to break out of discouragement and despair and depression, then what you’re going to have to do is disregard the people around you who say, “Who do you think you are? You’ve got to be kidding? You can’t do that. You’ll never be able to do that. Forget that dream. That’s a pipe dream. It’s never going to happen. You’re never going to be able to change. Your marriage is never going to be able to change. Your future is never going to change. You don’t need to be vaccinated. You don’t need to wear a mask.” There are all these nay-sayers who are going to criticize and suggest to you that to have a vision is actually stupid. You have to pay no attention to the dream busters in your life. And believe me, there are plenty of them – who want to bust your hope, and kill your vision. When they start talking to you if you listen to it you’re going to be filled with fear, filled with anxiety, filled with doubts about yourself. And it’ll keep you from launching out.

## **2. RESISTANCE: IGNORE THE NEGATIVE VOICES**

*In Luke 18:39, what did the people who were leading do?*

R\_\_\_\_\_ the beggar, and told him to be Q\_\_\_\_\_.

- Who are the typical influencers in a person’s life who speak out with negative voices?

**What does Proverbs 29:25 say about human opinion?**

It’s a S\_\_\_\_\_.

- How can we distinguish constructive criticism from inhibitive negative statements?

One of the greatest fears that people fall trapped into is the fear of the disapproval of other people. If you fear the disapproval of other people you will never, ever have God’s vision for your life.



Because you cannot please God and everybody else at the same time. You've got to decide who you're going to live for – the audience of your peers or the audience of one. If you decide that then you're going to have resistance to him.

Bartimaeus knows that if he starts shouting out – he's in a crowd – and he starts , “Hey Jesus! Over here! Come over here!” And he starts calling attention to himself, that's not going to be a popular thing to do in a crowd. Nobody's going to like that. In fact, everybody's going to disapprove of it. And it's going to be considered rude but it's his only chance and he's desperate.

The Bible says this in Luke 18:verse 39: “*Those who led the way* [those who were at the beginning of the crowd – when they heard Bartimaeus shouting at Jesus] *they rebuked him. And they told him to be quiet. But he just shouted all the more ‘Son of David! Have mercy on me!’*” What's the crowd doing? The crowd's saying cool it! Chill out! What are you doing? Jesus is an important person. You're just a blind beggar. Who do you think you are? Shut up and be quiet. They're rebuking him. They're telling him, do not try to get this guy's attention. Don't make a scene.

What the crowd is basically saying to Bartimaeus is this: “Surely Jesus would not be interested in a person like you.” That's what they're saying. The crowd is saying to this poor blind beggar, surely Jesus would not be interested in a person like you. Be careful that you don't speak negative things to YOURSELF.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUE FELLOWSHIP**

Think about the person whose disapproval you fear most.

That person could be seen as your idol and have more control of your life than you may realize, therefore blurring your vision.

Give control back to God. Pray for God to give you his vision for you, or to sharpen that vision.

This week, share your vision with other believers and ask them if your vision is in line with God's Word.

### **LESSON THREE**



*Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.  
Mark 10:49-50 NIV*

### **3. ATTENTION: LISTEN FOR GOD’S CALL**

**Read Mark 10:49-50.**

*What 3 things did the blind man do when Jesus called him?*

- a) Threw aside his C\_\_\_\_\_.
- A cloak signifies anything (or anyone) who blocks, delays, ‘trips you up’, or hinders you from coming to Christ.

**Give some examples of things that can get in a person’s way when Jesus calls them.**

- b) J\_\_\_\_\_ to his feet. This means he acted QUICKLY.

**Give some examples of why people procrastinate when Jesus calls them.**

- c) M\_\_\_\_\_ his W\_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus

**Give examples of evidence that a person “makes their way to Christ”.**

- *What are some ways to determine your calling from God?*

**Read Mark 10:47-48**



Notice this – this guy’s yelling, “Hey Jesus. Notice me!” and they all tell him to shut up and he keeps yelling, “Notice me!” Then verse 49, “*So Jesus stopped and said, ‘call him!’* [talking about this blind guy] *So they called to the blind man. ‘Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.* [Circle “he’s calling you.”] *Throwing his cloak aside he [Bartimaeus] jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.*”

***Why do you think Bartimaeus wanted Jesus to notice him? Do you think Bartimaeus wanted Jesus to see his situation? Or was there anything else?***

***What do you want Jesus to notice about YOU?***

***Why is it important to be quiet in order to hear God’s call?***

You’ve got to pay attention to God which means you have to settle down, slow down. You’re going to have to stop being busy and you’re going to have to be quiet to hear God’s call.

God is calling you. You must listen for God’s call. Calling and vision go together. What do I mean by that? God’s **CALL** on your life is God’s **VISION** for your life. They go together. If you want to know God’s vision for the next ten years you’ve got to get God’s call on your life.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF WORSHIP**

We are called to worship God with our whole being. To determine God’s plan for your life you need to listen to him. How often do you sit quietly and listen to God?

Take a few minutes this week to sit quietly for 2-3 minutes, asking God to bring to mind what He has called you to do with your life.

Afterward, discuss your thoughts with someone else or write them down in a journal. ***What is God calling you to do?***

### **LESSON FOUR**



*Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to Him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” “Lord, I want to see,” he replied.  
Luke 18:40-41 NIV*

#### **4. GOALS: TELL GOD EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT**

**Read Luke 18:40-41 (above).**

a) *What did Jesus ask?* \_\_\_\_\_

b) *Since Jesus is all-knowing, why did He ask the blind beggar what he wanted?* \_\_\_\_\_

c) *What was the blind beggar’s answer?* \_\_\_\_\_

Bartimaeus doesn’t go into this long speech. He doesn’t go into why he went blind. He just says, “I’d like to see, Lord!”

When he got there, Bartimaeus didn’t have to think about the answer to the question. He knew what he wanted. He had it clear in his mind. It’s pretty simple. That took all of three seconds.

He’s asking for a miracle as if he’s asking for the time of day. It was that simple. This is the way you get your vision back.

d) *Why do people struggle to give a simple answer to God?*

e) *Read James 4:3. How can one recognize that a vision is from God and not a simple selfish desire?*



**Discipleship** – Discipleship is asking God for exactly what you need and constantly reviewing whether the way you act on those requests is consistent with the character of Jesus.

*List the ways can you review your progress. Ask yourself:*

- Where do I want to be ten years from today?
- Where do I want to be financially?
- Where do I want to be in terms of my health?
- Where do I want to be in terms of my ministry and service through my church family?
- Where do I want to be in my relationships?
- Where do I want to be in my spiritual growth?
- Where do I want to be in my career?
- Some of you, where do I want to be in my education?
- Do I want to be married by the end of that decade?
- Do I want to have kids by the end of that decade?

*Set your goals.*

*Pray and ask for God's help to recognize His vision for your life.*

## **LESSON FIVE**



*Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.*  
*-Luke 18: 42-43 NIV*

**5. FAITH: RECEIVE YOUR VISION IN FAITH**

a) What is faith? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) What did Jesus tell the blind man in Luke 18:42?

c) R\_\_\_\_\_ your sight

d) Your F\_\_\_\_\_ has healed you

*Why is faith so important according to the verses below?*

- *Hebrews 11:6*
- *Hebrews 11:1-2*
- *Mark 9:23*
- *Ephesians 2:8-9*
- *Matthew 15:28*
- *Matthew 17:20*
- *Matthew 21:22*

*How quickly did Bartimaeus receive his sight? I \_\_\_\_\_!*  
That was it and bam! Just like that.



***How might people faithfully carry out the vision they receive from God?***

You receive your vision in faith. That’s what Bartimaeus did. He received it in faith. The Bible says, “*Jesus said to him, ‘Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.’ And immediately he received his sight.*” Circle a couple words in that verse. Circle “receive” and circle the word “faith.” Receive and faith.

Receiving and faith go together. If you don’t believe then you won’t receive. The two of them go together.

God opens doors. By faith, we step into the future that God designed for us. Welcome faith gratefully into your life. That’s what Bartimaeus did. He had faith in Jesus. He knew that Jesus was his only answer **because faith is placed in a person.** Bartimaeus didn’t have faith in an outcome. He wasn’t just thinking positive and happy thoughts. It wasn’t karma. He placed his faith in a person. He knew that Jesus was the only answer and he placed his faith in Him.

**Discipleship** – Faithfully executing God’s vision and purpose for your life is also discipleship.

***What vision has God given to you?***

***Are you faithfully executing the vision that God has given you?***

***Identify and list any distractions below:***

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



***Pray and ask God to help you re-focus in order to reset your life course.***

**LESSON SIX**

***Luke 18:35 NIV- As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.***

***Luke 18:43 NIV- Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.***



*Mark 10:52 NASB And Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.*

## **6. FOLLOW: STICK WITH JESUS ON THE ROAD HE TRAVELS**

*In Luke 18:43, what does the blind man do immediately after receiving his sight?*

**F** \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

If you want to keep your vision – if you don’t want to have vision leak, if you don’t want to lose it—you need to stay on the road with Jesus on the road that HE travels.

This is exactly what happened to Bartimaeus after he got his vision restored. Luke 18:43 says this: *“Immediately he [That’s Bartimaeus, the blind guy] received his sight and he followed Jesus, [circle that word “followed”] praising God. And when all the people saw it, they also praised God.”*

In Mark 10:52, it adds this: *“He regained his sight and began following Jesus on the road.”* Circle the phrase “on the road.” Notice he’s following Jesus on the road. **Notice what happens when you get your vision back.** What happens when you encounter Jesus Christ?

*“As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside.”* Circle “by the roadside.” Then when his vision is restored the last verse Mark 10:52, he’s following Jesus on the road. He USED TO sit **beside the road** as a beggar. NOW he’s following Jesus **on the road**.

***Here’s the most important question of the day: Which of those two phrases is going to describe you in the next ten years? Are you going to be sitting on the side of the road watching life pass you by and the parade go by and you’re on the sidelines and you’re sitting in the dirt begging? Or are the next ten years going to be you following Jesus on the road? You’re either going to be sitting on the side of the road or you’re going to be following Jesus on the road. Those are your choices.***

➤ ***How would you describe your life? Are you sitting by the road, or are you on the road with Jesus? Explain.***

➤ ***What does it mean to “follow Jesus”?***



**1. Which of the six steps discussed in this study series is your next step? Put a check mark beside it**

- **Hope:** Believing Jesus can change my life
- **Resistance:** Ignore the negative voices
- **Attention:** Listen for God's call
- **Goals:** Tell God exactly what you want
- **Faith:** Receive your vision in faith
- **Follow:** Stick with Jesus on the road He travels

**2. Is there anything that you know is the right thing to do in your life at this time but have not yet done?**

- a) What are you waiting for in order to take the next step?
- b) Pray that God will remove any obstacles that hold you back from accomplishing his purpose for your life.
- c) If you haven't already done so, cry out to Jesus in faith to make his vision for your life clear, asking that the Holy Spirit would help you accomplish the things God has already set out for you to do.

**PERSONAL APPLICATION AND COMMITMENT:** *Read Philippians 3:15 to get clearly focused on what God has in store for you. If your vision for what God has for you is blurred, take some quiet time to hear God's call for your life. Then write down goals you believe God is calling you to achieve. Answer the following questions to get focused:*

**Mission** – God asks us to use our talents and gifts to benefit others and thus bring non-believers into his church family. What do you have in your heart that you demonstrate with your gifts to show that you are “on the road with Jesus”? What could you start, stop, or continue doing to increase your faith and hope in Jesus and thereby multiply your impact on non-believers?