

# Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 1/04/26 Bryce Taylor

Watch the sermon at [manheimbic.org/sermon](http://manheimbic.org/sermon).

## Clear

**Proverbs 29:18** When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.

**Mark 8:29** Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Messiah." 30 But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. 31 Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. 32 As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.

33 Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. "Get away from me, Satan!" he said. "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"

**John 15:7** But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! **8** When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

**9** "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. **10** When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. **11** I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! **12** This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. **13** There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. **16** You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. **17** This is my command: Love each other.

**Connect:**

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

**Care:**

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

**Challenge:**

1. What are your new years resolutions? How did you come to those resolutions?
2. Proverbs 29:18 Divine Guidance - Have you ever wrestled or struggled with what you thought was God's direction, or vision for your life? Share your experience with the group.
3. Could you resonate with either of the groups that were struggling in Mark 8? Pharisees - Did not know Jesus as God but as a miracle worker, The Disciples - His power and provision, Peter - Messiah, but not death on the cross. Can you relate? *Maybe go back and reread the moments of fuzziness for those in the text.* Is Peter making a point by grouping these together?
4. Bryce talked about Believing in Jesus for who He really is as paramount in getting clarity and therefore accepting God's vision for our lives. What are the things that we can be doing this year to encourage our faith in Jesus?
5. What does Abiding (John 15) look like for you this year? Share with the group any changes or steps that you plan on taking this year to Abide.

Take a moment to Pray for one another.

**Clarify:**

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

**Celebrate:**

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**