

WORDS OF JESUS

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Firm Foundation

SPEAKER: Bo Stern Brady

DATE: August 16, 2026

TEXT(S): Luke 6:46-49, with 6:27-45,
Matt. 6:25-34, and Mark 9:14-29

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: *This resource is designed to help you, or you and your group, step through a progression of engagement with your Bible and the speaker's message.*

Our goal is to help you (or you and your group) better understand and apply B4's teaching.

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Jesus asks a pointed question: "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" He points out what's at stake through a story about two builders. Both build houses, and both face storms. The difference is that one digs deep to establish his foundation on rock. This is the one who hears and obeys. The one whose house stands in the storm. That kind of obedience takes time, can feel unnecessary, and is largely invisible. Even so, it creates resilience before the storm arrives. Following Jesus means more than believing His words. It means loving enemies, forgiving, showing mercy, giving, resisting anxiety, and becoming people whose lives stand firm.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. If you're using this guide by yourself, feel free to skip this warm-up. Choose one to discuss, or journal on. (5 minutes)*

1. When you hear the word "obedience," what is your first reaction?
2. What is something in life where taking the shortcut usually creates problems later?
3. Have you ever worked hard on something that nobody else could see or appreciate?
4. Who is someone you know whose life seems unusually stable when circumstances become difficult?
5. If you were building a house representing your life, what would you most want the "foundation" to be?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) referenced in the teaching. Spend about 10 minutes discussing, or journaling on, your choice of two or three questions:*

1. In Luke 6:46-49, what similarities does Jesus emphasize between the two builders? What differences?
2. Why do you think Jesus describes both builders as people who hear His words?
3. We see the wise builder "digging deep." What does that add to the picture that might otherwise be missed?
4. Both houses experience the storm. What does that suggest about the relationship between following Jesus and experiencing suffering?
5. How do Jesus' teachings about enemies, forgiveness, generosity, mercy, and judgment function as "foundation work" rather than merely isolated moral commands?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.*

Spend about 10 minutes discussing, or journaling on, your choice of two or three questions:

1. What do our cultures tend to define as a “strong foundation” for a successful life?
2. How does our modern world's obsession with convenience and efficiency make “digging deep” difficult?
3. Why are invisible investments often less attractive than things people can see and celebrate?
4. How might our media-obsessed culture encourage the appearance of a beautiful “house” while concealing the condition of the foundation underneath?
5. How does the Christian understanding of peace differ from the cultural assumption that peace depends primarily on favorable circumstances?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself.*

Spend about 10 minutes discussing, or journaling on, your choice of two or three questions:

1. Where is there a gap between what you say you believe about Jesus and how you actually live?
2. Which of Jesus' commands in Luke 6 (loving enemies, forgiveness, generosity, mercy, refusing judgment) is most difficult for you to practice, and why?
3. Where might you be choosing a shortcut because obedience feels too slow, inconvenient, or costly?
4. When criticism, conflict, financial pressure, or uncertainty comes, what part of your life tends to “shake” first?
5. Suppose you asked Jesus today, “What do You want *me* to do with Your words?” What specific response do you think He might invite from you?

LIVE IT OUT: *These suggestions can help you integrate this message into day-to-day life.*

Choose one prompt and discuss, or journal on, how you will embrace it this week (5 minutes):

1. Choose one command of Jesus and practice it deliberately. Pick one focus of the words you hear from Jesus in Luke 6, like forgiving someone; praying for an enemy; giving generously; refusing judgment; or showing mercy. Each morning this week, ask: “What would doing this look like today?” Each night, prayerfully reflect on where you practiced it, where you resisted, and talk to Jesus about it.
2. Start “digging” before the storm. Spend 10 minutes each day reading a short section of Jesus' teaching. Don't simply ask, “What does this mean?” Ask, “What does obedience to this look like today?” Write down one action and do it before the day ends. After 30 days, do a reflective “foundation” assessment about the condition of your “house.”

You can find B4's [Series Resources here](#).

