

WORDS OF JESUS

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Seeds and the Yeast

SPEAKER: Bo Stern Brady

DATE: June 14, 2026

TEXT(S): Matthew 13:31-33,
with Luke 22:25-30

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

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

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Jesus taught in parables to reveal the mysteries of God's Kingdom to those willing to seek understanding. In Matthew 13, the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast reveal a Kingdom that often begins small, hidden, and unnoticed, yet grows with extraordinary power and influence. Jesus teaches that God's most significant work frequently happens beneath the surface before it becomes visible. Jesus followers are invited to faithfully sow seeds of community, care, prayer, justice, and service, trusting that God is at work even when we don't see immediate results.

LEAN IN: These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5 minutes.

1. Describe something small you've planted, started, or invested in that eventually grew beyond your expectations.
2. Have you ever learned something better because you had to discover it yourself rather than being told? If so, what was that like?
3. What is your favorite example of "slow growth" in nature?
4. Have you ever baked bread or watched dough rise? What surprised you about the process?
5. If you could instantly see the future results of one thing you're doing today, what would it be?

LOOK DOWN: These are questions about the Bible passage(s) from the teaching. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:

1. In Luke 22:25-30, how does Jesus redefine greatness and authority?
2. What similarities do you notice between the mustard seed and yeast parables?
3. What aspects of Kingdom growth are emphasized by the mustard seed?
4. What aspects are emphasized by the yeast?
5. What do the images of birds nesting in a tree (Matthew 13, Ezekiel 17, Daniel 4) suggest about the impact of God's Kingdom?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.*
Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:

1. Why do we tend to value visible success more than hidden faithfulness?
2. How does social media shape our expectations about influence and impact?
3. What kinds of hidden work in society often go unnoticed but have significant long-term effects?
4. How does Jesus' vision of leadership challenge contemporary ideas of power and status?
5. Why is patience increasingly difficult in a culture built around speed and instant results?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself.*
Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:

1. Where are you tempted to give up because you cannot yet see results?
2. How have you experienced God working behind the scenes in your own life, or that of another?
3. Which area of the church's vision (community, care, prayer, or justice) most resonates with you personally?
4. Who has "sown" into your life in ways that continue to bear fruit today?
5. How can you become a source of Kingdom influence in your family, workplace, neighborhood, or church?

LIVE IT OUT: *These prayer practices can help you integrate this message into day-to-day life.*
Choose one prompt and discuss how you will embrace it this week (5 minutes):

1. Pray a hidden growth prayer: Each day during the coming week, identify one area of your life where you cannot yet see results. Pray something like, "Lord, help me trust Your work beneath the surface. Give me faith to believe You are growing what I cannot yet see." Finish by thanking God for one bit of evidence of His faithfulness from the past.
2. Pray a "mustard seed" prayer: Each morning this week, ask God something like, "What small act of obedience, kindness, generosity, service, or prayer would You have me sow today?" At each day's end, offer that seed back to God and entrust the outcome to Him.

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

