

WORDS OF JESUS

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Wheat and Weeds

SPEAKER: Bo Stern Brady

DATE: June 21, 2026

TEXT(S): Matthew 13:24-43

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' parable of the wheat and weeds reminds us that God is the Gardener and we are not. Though evil is real, Jesus teaches that judgment, timing, and final sorting belong to God alone. Human beings often misjudge who is "wheat" and who is "weed," while God really sees people and what they're becoming. We see this throughout Scripture, as Jesus consistently moves toward those others reject. This parable calls maturing disciples to resist premature judgment, abide in Christ, trust God's patient work, and love their neighbors without assuming authority that belongs only to God.

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. Have you ever made a wrong first impression about someone? What happened?
2. Why do people naturally categorize others into "good" and "bad" groups?
3. What is a garden or plant you've tried to grow? What did you learn about patience?
4. When have you wanted to "fix" a situation immediately?
5. Why do you think waiting can be so difficult?

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. Why does Jesus begin by saying the kingdom is "like" a farmer sowing good seed?
2. Why might the farmer refuse the servants' offer to remove the weeds?
3. What does the emphasis on "YOU might uproot the wheat" reveal about human limitations?
4. Why do you think Jesus identifies the field as "the world" rather than "the church"?
5. What does God's delay in judgment teach us about His character?

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. Where do you see “sorting people too soon” happening in today’s culture?
2. How have social media and outrage culture encouraged quick judgment?
3. What groups of people are commonly treated as “weeds” in our society?
4. How does this teaching challenge political, ideological, or tribal divisions?
5. Why do you think humans often prefer certainty over mercy?

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. Who is someone you’ve been tempted to give up on spiritually, and why?
2. Where have you been tempted to assume a role that belongs to God alone?
3. Which example from Jesus’ ministry resonates most with you, and why?
4. What would it look like for you to “abide” rather than “manage” this week?
5. How might remembering that God was patient with you change how you treat others?

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. Practice a daily “*Releasing the Gardener’s Work*” prayer throughout the coming week. Each day, name one person you’re worried about, frustrated with, or tempted to judge and pray over them in this manner: “Lord, this person belongs to Your world, not my management. I release my need to sort, fix, or condemn them. Help me trust Your patient work and love them as You do.”
2. Practice an abide-before-assessing pause. This week, before responding to a difficult person, before offering any criticism, making assumptions, or speaking negatively about another, remind yourself to pause and pray something like this: “Jesus, help me see this person through Your eyes before I form my conclusions. Keep me rooted in Your love and remind me that *You* are the Gardener.”

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

