

WORDS OF JESUS

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Trinkets, Treasures, and Pearls

SPEAKER: Bo Stern Brady

DATE: June 28, 2026

TEXT(S): Matthew 13:44-46, with Phil. 3:7-8,
Romans 14:17, and Colossians 2:2-3

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' twin parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price reveals that the kingdom of God is defined first by its incomparable value. And our embrace of it is motivated by joy, not obligation. Joy is the engine of wholehearted discipleship because those who recognize the kingdom's worth gladly surrender lesser treasures. Some people unexpectedly stumble upon God's kingdom while others diligently seek it, but both ultimately arrive at the same place. Jesus is worth everything. The kingdom can remain hidden in ordinary places, yet it still invites attentive hearts to discover its transforming riches. That is righteousness, peace, and joy.

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. Share a time you discovered something unexpected that turned out to be incredibly valuable.
2. Are you naturally more of a "searcher" or a "stumbler" when it comes to learning new things?
3. Have you ever made a purchase or investment that seemed expensive at first but later felt completely worthwhile? What was that like?
4. What usually motivates your biggest life decisions? Fear, duty, joy, or something else?
5. What images or phrases from Sunday's message stayed with you?

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. What differences do you notice between the man and the merchant? Why might they be important?
2. What does it mean that the treasure is hidden, but the pearl must be diligently sought?
3. How does Philippians 3:7-8 deepen your understanding of Jesus' parables?
4. In what ways does Romans 14:17 define the kingdom differently than many people expect?
5. According to Colossians 2:2-3, where are the treasures of wisdom found, and how does that connect to Matthew 13:44-46?

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. How does our culture tend to define “success” differently from how Jesus defines true treasure?
2. Why do people often focus on what following Jesus costs rather than what it offers?
3. What “trinkets” compete for our affection today (career, comfort, status, security, technology, wealth)?
4. Why do you think people are attracted to visible success while often overlooking God’s hidden work?
5. How might joy become a more compelling witness in our culture than obligation?

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 have you discovered hidden treasures of God’s presence in ordinary moments?
2. Which type of character do you identify with, the unexpected finder or the intentional seeker, and why?
3. What would change if you truly believed God’s kingdom is worth more than everything else you possess?
4. Is there an area where you’ve viewed obedience primarily as sacrifice rather than joyful exchange?
5. What is one “lesser thing” God may be inviting you to surrender to embrace something better?

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. Offer a prayer of discovery: Each morning this week, pray something like this, “Jesus, show me Your kingdom today. Open my eyes to the hidden treasures of Your presence. Help me value what You value and recognize Your work in ordinary places.” Then pause for a few quiet moments before beginning your day.
2. Practice a daily exchange: Each evening throughout the week, take time to reflect on one thing you valued most that day (success, comfort, approval, possessions, productivity, etc.), and then offer it to Jesus in prayer. You might say this, or something similar, “Lord, this is a good gift, but it is not my greatest treasure. Help me delight more deeply in You than in anything else.” Take some time to journal your thoughts about the exchange.

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

