



SIFTED AND STIRRED

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SIFTED

SPEAKER: BO STERN BRADY
DATE: August 24, 2025
TEXT(S): Luke 22:24-33, 55-62;
James 1:2-4; and Mark 10:21-25

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: *This resource is designed to help you, or your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. Our goal is to help you better understand and apply B4's teaching.*

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Pastor Bo takes us into two powerful moments with Jesus: one with His disciples at the Last Supper, and another with the Rich Young Ruler. In both stories, Jesus flips expectations upside down. The disciples think greatness means status, but Jesus shows them true greatness looks like serving. Peter thinks he's strong enough to stand, but Jesus warns that sifting is coming. Yet, He promises His prayer will carry Peter through, shaping him into someone who can strengthen others. Then we meet the Rich Young Ruler, invited by Jesus into the adventure of a lifetime, but the young man holds back, burdened by his possessions. Both stories point to the same truth: God often allows times of shaking or stripping away, not to harm us but to make us whole. The question is: will we let go of any hindrance that keeps us from the abundant life Jesus offers?

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 5-10 minutes.*

1. What's the most literal "shaken up" moment you've ever had: a car ride, earthquake, rollercoaster, or something else?
2. Have you ever had your plans totally shaken up in a way you didn't see coming? How did you respond at first?
3. Have you ever had a small "shake-up" (like an inconvenience) end up teaching you something big? And, if so, what was that experience like?
4. What's one "shake-up" in your life that turned out to be a blessing in disguise?
5. Describe something from a recent B4 service where you sensed God was shaking or sifting you.

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) from the message. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. In Luke 22:24–27, why do you think the disciples were so concerned with "who is greatest"? How does Jesus redefine greatness here?
2. In 22:31–32, Why do you think Jesus didn't pray for Peter to avoid the sifting, but instead prayed for his faith not to fail?

3. Consider James 1:2–4 and share why you think trials might produce endurance and maturity instead of just pain and discouragement.
4. Read Mark 10:17–22. Why do you think Jesus asked the rich young man to give up everything?
5. Verse 10:21 says, “Jesus looked at him and loved him.” How does knowing Jesus’ love help us when He asks us to let go of something and it’s hard to do so?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. When people argue about “who’s the greatest,” what does that look like in everyday life (workplaces, families, social media)?
2. Most people know what it feels like to be “shaken up.” How do they typically explain or try to make sense of those moments apart from God?
3. The Rich Young Ruler was asked to let go of what he valued most. What are some “weights,” or attachments, the average person in your culture might struggle to release?
4. Why do you think hardship can sometimes make people bitter and other times make them stronger?
5. If someone doesn’t believe in God, how might they still resonate with the idea that shaking can bring growth and maturity?

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 in your life do you feel the pull to “prove you’re great,” and how might Jesus be inviting you to take the role of a servant instead?
2. When life shakes you — or you sense God may be “sifting” you — what assurances, habits, or practices keep your faith from unraveling?
3. Which part of Jesus’ example do you find hardest to imitate: serving, surrendering, or trusting through trials?
4. James says trials produce endurance. How and where do you see God building endurance in your life?
5. If Jesus “looked at you and loved you” (like the Rich Ruler), what hard thing might He lovingly invite you to release?

LIVE IT OUT: *These practical action steps help you apply this message to day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5-10 minutes:*

1. Gather a few friends or family for a simple meal this week. As you eat, talk about where you’ve seen God’s kingdom breaking in — especially through sifting or shaking — even in small, ordinary ways. Celebrate what God is doing in your lives and finish by praying together for one another.
2. Identify one small “weight” (a habit, mindset, or possession) you can release this week. Try it for seven days. At the next group gathering, discuss what letting go revealed about freedom or dependence on God.