



PIGS & PEARLS Matthew 7:6

CONNECT

1. When and how have you heard the phrase “pearls before swine” used?

CELEBRATE

2. Read Matthew 7:6. When Jesus spoke this in first century Palestine, what were the characteristics of dogs and pigs? What were they known for? What animals might be parallel examples today?
3. Jesus uses “what is holy” and “pearls” to describe sacred things God entrusts to people. Based on that definition, what things might be considered pearls for you?
4. What makes a person safe (not a pig!) to share the sacred things God has entrusted to you? Who has been this kind of person for you?
5. How do you discern when the time is right to open your heart to someone?
6. Think about how verse 6 relates to verses 1–5. What heart postures are similar for both commands? What’s the difference between the judgmentalism and pride Jesus forbids (1–5) and the discernment He calls for (6)?

CONTRIBUTE

7. Consider this verse from the opposite perspective—being on the receiving end of pearls. Are you more prone to trample on what people share or are you a safe place to hold the sacred things God has entrusted to them?
8. Pray for the New Hope Church family. Pray that we pursue and treasure the sacred things of God. Pray that we have the humility, discernment, reverence and discretion to wisely steward them together.