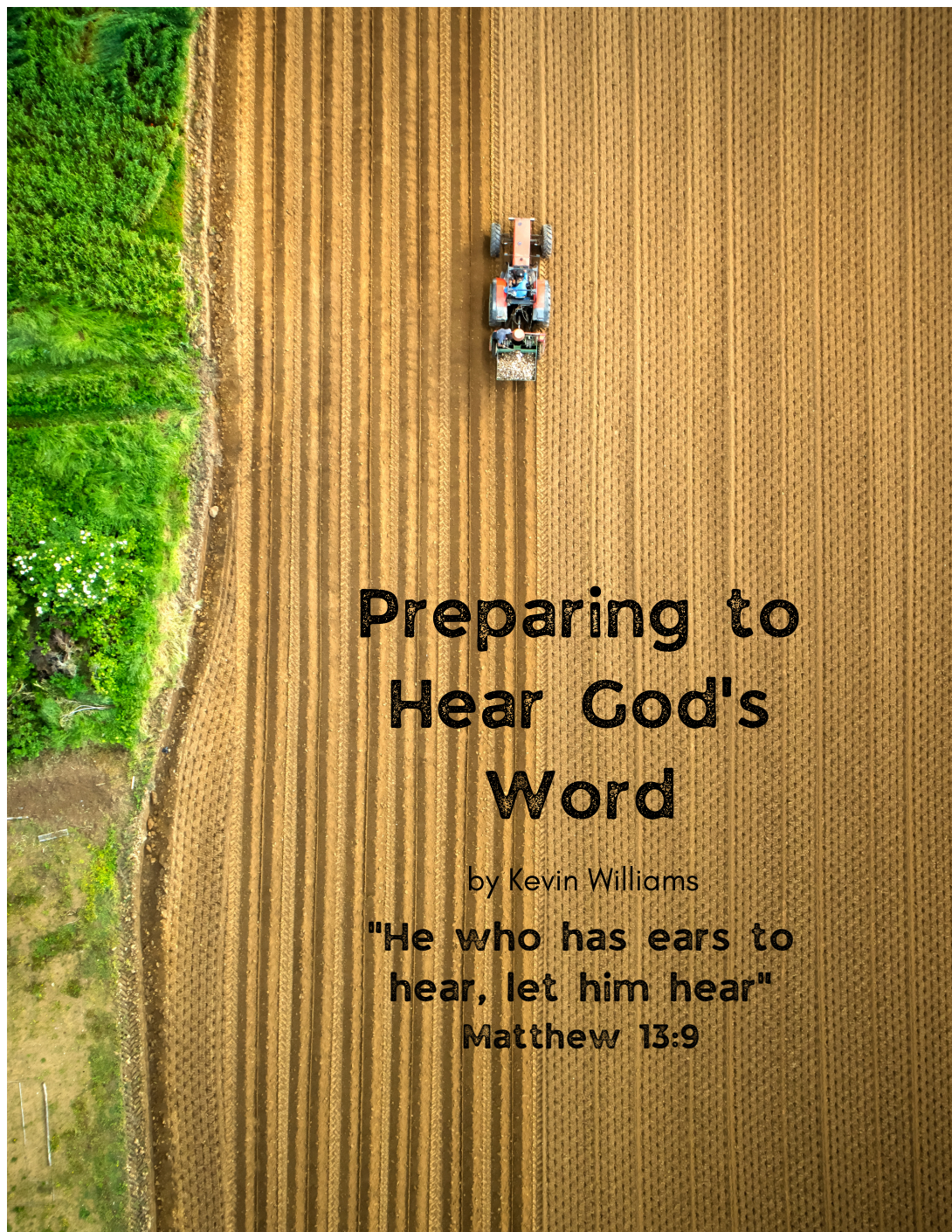




Imagine that after gathering on Sunday to sing, read the Scriptures, and pray, the preacher walks to the pulpit and announces, "I'm sorry folks, but I'm not prepared with a sermon this morning." What would you think? We expect the preacher to be prepared on Sunday. But what if the listeners come unprepared?

Famous Baptist pastor from the 1800s, Charles Spurgeon, said, "We are told men ought not to preach without preparation. Granted. But we add, men ought not to hear without preparation. Which, do you think needs the most preparation, the sower or the ground? I would have the sower come with clean hands, but I would have the ground well-plowed and harrowed, well-turned over, and the clods broken before the seed comes in. It seems to me that there is more preparation needed by the ground than by the sower, more by the hearer than by the preacher."

Continued on page 3



Preparing to Hear God's Word

by Kevin Williams

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear"

Matthew 13:9

SUNDAY, 06 FEBRUARY 9:30 OR 11 AM

In-person services take place in the auditorium.
[Livestream is available.](#)

- "And Can It Be"
- "Blessed Assurance"
- "Behold Our God"
- Prayer
- Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:19-30
- "A Debtor to Mercy"
- "All I Have Is Christ"
- "As the Deer"
- Message: "It's Who You Know"
Exodus 5:1-23
- Pastor Kevin Williams
- "We Will Glorify"

ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

9:30

Judges: God's Faithfulness to Disobedient People Pastor Jerry | Room 207

11:00

College & Career

Jeff McConnell | Room 221

Young Couples: 20s & 30s

Will Breckenridge | Room 207

Epistle to the Philippians

Manuele Russo | **Gym Foyer**

CHILDREN'S/TEEN MINISTRIES

9:30

Nursery (0-1)

Nursery (2-3)

11:00

Nursery (0-1)

Nursery (2-3)

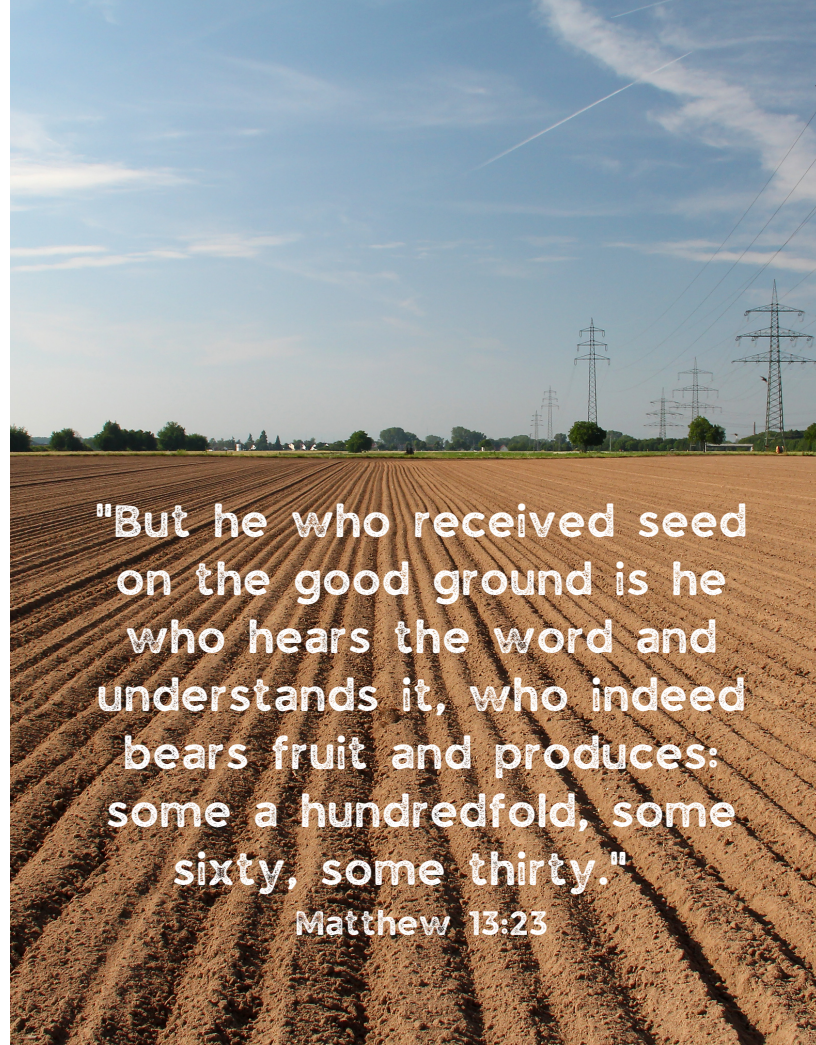
Ages 4-5 Room 209

Grades 1-2 Room 212

Grades 3-4 Room 211

Grades 5-6 Room 309

Teens Room 308



"But he who received seed
on the good ground is he
who hears the word and
understands it, who indeed
bears fruit and produces:
some a hundredfold, some
sixty, some thirty."

Matthew 13:23

2021 Giving Receipts

Will be available for pick-up starting Sunday, 6 February. Any unclaimed receipts will be mailed 22 February.

Giving

E-transfer is available. From your bank's website, select the e-transfer feature. The email address to transfer to is donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com. Your donation will be automatically accepted, and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study/Teens Bible Study/Kids 4 Truth

7 pm

Baptism & New Members Joining Service

13 February, 1:30 pm

How are you preparing to hear God's Word this Sunday? Here are a few ideas.

1. Read the Scriptures throughout the week.

Spending time in the Word will expand your appetite for the Word. You can even read the passage ahead of time to prepare your heart for what you are about to receive.

2. Pray.

Pray for a receptive heart. Pray like Samuel: "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears" (1 Sam 3:10). You can also pray for the preacher as he prepares the sermon. You've heard the old adage: "You get what you pay for." Maybe with preaching congregations get what they pray for.

3. Confess your sin.

James instructs us to "put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness" before we "receive with meekness the implanted word" (James 1:21). And Jesus tells us to reconcile with others before coming to worship (Matt 5:23-24).

4. Plan ahead.

Plan your Saturday schedule with Sunday in mind. Late-night activities may not be the wisest preparation. Get things ready for the next day on Saturday evening. Plan to leave the house in plenty of time to arrive early. If the Lord's Day is a priority for you, make it a priority in your schedule.

5. Participate in whole-hearted worship.

Join the congregation in singing. Recite the Scripture reading. Think about the words. Pray along with the one leading in prayer. Participating in worship will prepare your heart to hear from God.

6. Eliminate distractions.

Jesus rebuked Martha for being worried and distracted about many things when she should have been listening with her sister (Luke 10:38-42). There will always be distractions, but which ones can you eliminate? Probably the biggest one in our society is the cell phone. Turn it off, put it away, and avoid the temptation to check notifications.

Successful athletes have their routines before a game. Preparation is an important part of success in any area of life. What is your routine before listening to God's message? How can you better prepare to hear from Him this Sunday?

SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

New connect groups are forming for winter/spring. Meadowlands is setting aside four Sundays to encourage small group fellowship. Groups will meet for lunch, supper, or snacks on February 27, March 27, April 24, and May 29. There are no age restrictions and we encourage everyone to participate. [Register here](#) or fill out a form at the Information Desk. After registering, you will be placed in a group and your assigned host will arrange the time, place and details.

The deadline to sign up is February 16.

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