

The background of the slide is a light yellow-green color with a faint, repeating pattern of wheat stalks. A horizontal rectangular box with a thin black border is positioned in the lower-middle section of the slide. Inside this box, the title "Receiving the Word" is written in a bold, dark brown font. To the left of the box, there is a small, dark rectangular inset image showing a close-up of wheat stalks with a bright sun flare behind them.

Receiving the Word

Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23



God's Word

- Is Like Rain – Isaiah 55:10-13



Isaiah 55:10-13 ESV

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.



God's Word

- Is Like Rain – Isaiah 55:10-13
- Is Like Seed – Matt. 13:1-9



Matthew 13:3-4 ESV

3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.



Matthew 13:18-19 ESV

"Hear then the parable of the sower: 19
When anyone hears **the word of the kingdom** and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. **This is what was sown along the path.**



God's Word

- Is Like Rain – Isaiah 55:10-11
- Is Like Seed – Matt. 13:3-4, 18-19
- All are Necessary for Man to Live
 - God sends
 - Man receives



Purposes of God's Word

- It has a purpose - Is. 55:10-13
- To be received
- To cause positive change



Isaiah 55:10-13 ESV

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; **it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**



Isaiah 55:12-13 ESV

"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 **Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.**"



Purposes of God's Word

- It has a purpose - Is. 55:10-13
- To be received
- To cause positive change
- To test and reveal the hearts of men – 1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Cor. 2:14-17



1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.



2 Corinthians 2:14-17

ESV

14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. 15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,



2 Corinthians 2:14-17

ESV

16 to one a fragrance from death to death,
to the other a fragrance from life to life.
Who is sufficient for these things? 17 For
we are not, like so many, peddlers of
God's word, but as men of sincerity, as
commissioned by God, in the sight of God
we speak in Christ.



Requirements for Receiving God's Word

- Take it in – Isa. 55:6; Matt. 13:13-16



Isaiah 55:6-9 ESV

"Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;



Matthew 13:13-16 ESV

This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.



Matthew 13:13-16 ESV

15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.' 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.



Requirements for Receiving God's Word

- Take it in – Isa. 55:6; Matt. 13:13-16
- Allow it to penetrate deeply – Isa. 55:8-9; Heb. 4:12; James 1:21



Isaiah 55:6-9 ESV

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.



Hebrews 4:12 ESV

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



James 1:21 ESV

Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.



Requirements for Receiving God's Word

- Take it in – Isa. 55:6; Matt. 13:13-16
- Allow it to penetrate deeply – Isa. 55:8-9; Heb. 4:12; James 1:21
- Prefer it, choose it, act on it – Is. 55:7; Matt. 13:19-22; James 1:22-25



Isaiah 55:6-9 ESV

7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.



Matthew 13:19-22 ESV

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,



Matthew 13:19-22 ESV

21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.



James 1:22-25 ESV

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.



Results of Receiving God's Word

- Fruitfulness – Matt. 13:23