LESSON - The Prayer Of Jabez

WORSHIP (15 MINUTES)

Play worship music to create an atmosphere of worship and help everyone prepare their hearts. If the venue is public, invite everyone to share the highs and lows of their week to build connection and fellowship.

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

Welcome guests and first-time visitors warmly. Start with a simple icebreaker question to help everyone get acquainted, create a comfortable atmosphere, and encourage guests to feel included.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Describe your prayer life? Fervent? Struggling? Getting cold?

WORD (30-45 MINUTES)

Main Text: Read **1 Chronicles 4:1-10 ESV**

1 Chronicles 4 started with the descendants of Judah, name after name after name...but somewhere in the middle of these family records, in between the names in the genealogy was the story of a man by the name of Jabez describing him in two verses.

Unlike the many names in the chapter, something special was told about Jabez, he was described as "more honorable than his brothers" and some interpretations relate this to his special relationship with God. The Bible recorded a powerful prayer he offered to the God of Israel. His prayer is not a formula for wealth or success, but this must be seen as a sincere prayer by a man to inspire all of us to seek God beyond one's limitations and to never settle for the best that God desires for His people. Today, let us discover four things about the prayer of Jabez and how we can apply these truths in our everyday lives:

1. LIKE JABEZ WE CAN COME TO GOD IN PRAYER WITH BOLDNESS - "OH THAT YOU WOULD BLESS ME"v.10

Jabez prayed a bold prayer before God! But it was not about a selfish, materialistic desire for more things, for more stuff to be used for his personal consumption. He was bold to ask unselfishly for blessings because it was not for his personal benefit because earlier in v.9,"he was an honorable man."

In the same way, the Bible invites God's people to pray honestly and confidently. Read: Hebrews 4:16

Q: Why is it important to pray with boldness before God?

Q: When was the last time you prayed a bold prayer?

2. LIKE JABEZ, WE CAN ASK GOD FOR A GREATER INFLUENCE - "ENLARGE MY BORDER" V.10

Jabez was asking for more than property expansion but he was asking for greater stewardship and influence. Spiritually speaking, "Enlarge my territory" in our context can be asking God to enlarge our capacity to serve Him, enlarge our influence so we can impact more people and lead more people to salvation.

Q: Have you ever prayed for a greater influence before? Why?

Q: Where is God calling you to ask Him to "expand your territory"? Is it influence in your workplace? Ministry leadership? Reaching people at work or school?

3. LIKE JABEZ WE CAN ASK GOD TO EMPOWER OUR LIVES FOR HIS GREATER PURPOSES - "AND THAT YOUR HAND MIGHT BE WITH ME " V.10

Jabez' prayer is not a simple request about spiritual closeness with God but asking God for him to be empowered to do what God is calling Him to do. Jabez was not afraid to ask God to use Him powerfully. In his prayer, Jabez was not asking for a change in his circumstances because of his negative past, but as he moved on from the past, now he is asking for God's involvement in his life. He knew he could not do things on his own.

Q: For what purpose would you desire for the hand of God to rest upon you and empower you like the way Jabez prayed to be empowered by God?

4. LIKE JABEZ WE CAN ASK GOD TO MAKE US A CHANNEL OF HIS LOVE AND HEALING FOR OTHERS AROUND US - "AND THAT YOU WOULD KEEP ME FROM HARM[C] SO THAT IT MIGHT NOT BRING ME PAIN!" V.10

Jabez asked to be kept from harm so he wouldn't cause pain, to be protected from evil that can limit him to be a blessing.

Instead of becoming an instrument of pain, Jabez prayed to become a vessel and channel of healing for others.

Jabez asks to be kept from evil or harm. Jesus likewise teaches His disciples to pray, "deliver us from evil""And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Matthew 6:13 ESV

Q: In what area of your life would you ask God for His divine protection over your life?

Conclusion: GOD HEARD THE PRAYER OF JABEZ - "AND GOD GRANTED WHAT HE ASKED"

Verse 10, ended by a very powerful statement saying that God answered what Jabez asked for. The Lord responded to the meaningful and sincere prayer of a man who prayed in accordance with His will. God invites all of us His people to ask boldly, to come before Him and to pray with boldness and confidence like Jabez prayed. God's response to Jabez' boldness in prayer included His divine favor, a greater influence, His divine presence and empowerment, His divine protection and strength to accomplish His divine plan and purpose for his life.

God is not limited by a person's painful or difficult past. Jabez's name may have related to pain or suffering, but he did not settle or remain with that reputation. The Bible speaks of faithful people who experienced hardship like Job, Jeremiah, the Apostle Paul, and the early believers who faced persecution. Even believers today in countries closed to the gospel go through extreme difficulties but the encouraging news is that God can work through our suffering, His goodness can sustain us and our trust in God's grace can strengthen our faith.

Read Romans 8:26-28, 31-39. 1 John 5:14–15 ESV

Q: What bold prayer request do you have for: yourself, for other people, and for the Kingdom of God that you want the Lord to answer today?

Like Jabez, trust the Lord to answer your prayer!

WORK (15 MINUTES)

Application

1. Find a partner. Ask what you can pray for him/her then pray for each other.
2. Pray and prepare a Hit List (max. of 5-10 names of family, relatives, friends, schoolmates, workmates, neighbors, etc.) of possible people you desire to invite in the next life group gathering.

What is your take-away from this lesson? Closing Prayer