

How Do I... Week 2

Discussion Guide



Icebreaker

Do you ever feel awkward or unsure about praying? If so, why?

Read

Read 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Discuss

God often works through unexpected people in unexpected places. Jabez shows up in the middle of a long genealogy. He was named for how painful his birth was yet he is described as more honorable than his brothers. His prayer stands out. When he asked for a blessing, he wasn't looking for material wealth or personal gain, but for God's will to intersect with his life.

- **How have labels from your past (either given by others or yourself) affected the way you view your potential to be used by God?**
- **A blessing isn't about getting new stuff (cars, boats, etc.), but about being a blessing to others. How does this shift your perspective on what it means to be blessed?**
- **Your willingness and weakness + God's will and supernatural power = your expanding territory. Which part of the equation feels hardest for you to contribute to, your willingness or admitting to your weakness? Why?**
- **Have you ever felt unqualified for something God was calling you to do? How did you experience the hand of God in that moment of dependence?**

As Jabez prays for God to expand his life and influence, he recognizes that greater opportunity brings greater responsibility and risk. Stepping into what God has for us often pushes us beyond our comfort zones, increasing our need for His presence and power. That's why Jabez doesn't just ask for blessing, but also for protection. He understands that sin causes pain to God because it separates us from Him but it also causes pain to others.

- **Why is it important to ask not just for opportunity, but also for God's presence in that opportunity?**
- **How have you seen greater responsibility or opportunity also bring greater temptation or pressure?**
- **How have you seen sin cause pain either in your own life or in the lives of others?**
- **How might your prayers change if you consistently asked for both greater impact and greater dependence on God?**

Application

We can pray this prayer. It is not just meant to be studied, it is meant to be practiced. For the next 50 days pray the prayer of Jabez. Ask God to use your life to bless others. Ask that He expand your opportunities to serve. Ask that His hand be upon you and keep you from evil.

- **What might keep you from stepping into opportunities when they come? How can you prepare for that now?**
- **How will you remind yourself to stay aware and not miss what God is doing around you?**
- **Pay attention to opportunities God might be placing in front of you.**

Prayer

Spend time in prayer asking God to align your life with His purpose and to be used to bless others. Ask God to stay close and guard you from any harm.