



**Teach us to Pray- The Prayer of Jabez  
Sermon Discussion Questions – Jan. 8**

***Scripture Passages:***

**Genesis 1:3**

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

**Genesis 1:11**

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so.

**Genesis 1:26**

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,<sup>[a]</sup> and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

**Ephesians 6:18**

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

**1 Chronicles 4:9-10**

Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, “I gave birth to him in pain.”<sup>10</sup> Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my

territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.” And God granted his request.

**Psalm 18:35**

You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great.

**2 Corinthians 9:8**

“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

**Acts 16:25**

“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns”

**Acts 16:30-31**

He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

**Psalm 23:4**

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**Exodus 33:15-17**

Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. 16 How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?” 17 And the Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”

**1 Peter 5:8**

The devil is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.

**Romans 8:35-37**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

**Warm Up:**

1. We are officially one week into the new year! Some people I know make New Year’s resolutions or have goals they want to see happen throughout the year. What resolutions or goals do you have for this year? How might the little actions each day help you reach these goals?

**Discussion:**

1. In this series of *Teach Us How to Pray*, we are challenged to join in 21 days of prayer and fasting.

What is your experience with prayer and fasting? What do you know about these spiritual practices? And what might you hope to learn? What is something you might fast starting next week?

2. Read the Genesis' passages above. Pastor Scott explains how there are some things God created and some things God made. The difference between these two words is that created came from nothing and made is how God took something that already existed and made something from it. Pastor Scott also notes how we are made from the verse in 1:26.  
What are your initial reactions to this? How might knowing about how we were created impacted the way we see prayer?
3. Read Ephesians 6:18. Pastor Scott points out how we are to pray but there are all kinds of prayers. Pastor Tom showed us the Tabernacle Prayer and Pastor Scott this week showed us the Jabez Prayer.  
What other types of prayers have you interacted with? How have these prayers helped you stay connected with God? What is one step from the Tabernacle Prayer or the Jabez prayer that you found helpful and why?
4. Pastor Scott explains Jabez's name and how it translates to pain. Having this constant reminder would set anyone up to live in a lifestyle of pain. Jabez's prayer to God though is focused on God's promise rather than his past. Pastor Scott explained it this way, "I don't have to focus on my pain if I focus on your promise, I will be free from my pain..."  
How does focusing on God's promise affect how you view yourself and your situation? How does this influence your relationship with God? How might this effect your prayers?
5. Pastor Scott breaks down Jabez prayer for us and it begins by praying for blessing. God wants to bless you for the purpose of you blessing others.  
What do you think it means to ask God to bless you? What are some practical ways that you could take a blessing God has given you and turn around and share it with others?
6. The next aspect to the Jabez prayer is to pray for influence. Reading the verses in Acts from above show how influence can impact others.  
How might asking for influence shape not only you but those in your circle of influence?
7. Then Jabez prays for presence and specifically God's presence in his life. Read the Exodus passage above and see how Moses too highlights the importance of God's presence.  
How might you live differently if you knew God's presence was with you?
8. The final aspect of Jabez prayer is a prayer for protection. The attacks from the Enemy are real and happen more frequently as you walk closer with the Lord. There might be areas you know the enemy might try to attack then there might be those areas you might not even see. This is why it is important to pray for protection.  
What areas do you need protection in? How might God use your community to help protect you as well?

***Next Steps:***

1. Begin to think of what you might fast from in the coming week. Again, we are praying to connect to God and fasting to disconnect from the world.
2. Remind yourself that you are made in the image of God and apart from Him you will die. Read John 15:4-9.
3. Also remember God made himself accessible to us and we can communicate with him through prayer.
4. Try the Jabez prayer this week and pray for blessing, influence, presence, and protection.