



Bible Character Study



from Godly Pearls

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this Bible Character Study.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 5 and distribute them to your students.



Topic:

Jabez – prayer changes everything.



Read the Bible References: The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goals of Lesson:

- To explain and illustrate the power of prayer.



Lesson Takeaway:

God listens when you talk to Him in prayer. He is able and willing to give you all you ask according to His will.



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Date:



Topic:

Jabez – prayer changes everything.



Bible References:

1 Chronicles 4:9 – 10



Who was Jabez?

The bible does not tell us much about the man named Jabez. In fact, his story was summed up in just two verses of the bible! But the little we know about him is so powerful and we can learn a lot from his story.

We know that Jabez had brothers, but he was “more honourable” than his brothers. This means he was more valued, respected or perhaps, even held a rank in the family or society he lived at that time.

His mother, who we don't know her name, called him Jabez when she gave birth to him. She named him Jabez “because she bore him in pain”. This means the birth of Jabez was not a good experience for his mother.



What did Jabez do?

Jabez must have grown up finding out the meaning of his name and why his mother gave him the name, Jabez. Imagine this – every time people called him “Jabez”, they referred to him as “painful”. Everywhere he went, people knew him as “painful”. It must have been a very sad experience to hear people call him “painful” every time and everywhere.

In 1 Chronicles 4:10, we read about his prayer. “And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” What a courageous and desperate prayer!



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What did Jabez do? - Continued

His prayer revealed that Jabez might have had enough of being called “painful” and being a source of pain to those around him. He must have gotten into a lot of troubles growing up. He wanted God to keep him from evil and he does not want to cause pain anymore.

Jabez prayed to the God of Israel knowing that He was the only One that could reverse the bad things happening around him and make them good. He trusted God enough to tell Him exactly how he felt and what he wanted Him to do.

Jabez asked God to bless him. His life looked like he was under a curse. He needed God’s blessings in place of the curse. He asked for the Presence of God to be with him. He asked for physical things too like a bigger territory or land.

And what happened when he prayed to God? The bible said in the latter part of 1 Chronicles 4:10, “So God granted him what he requested”!.

For Jabez, that meant, God blessed him indeed, and enlarged his territory, the hand of God was with him, and kept him from evil, and he did not cause pain!. Wow, simply amazing! Our God is so good. He hears us when we talk to him in prayer.



What can we learn from Jabez?

Jabez’s mother called him “painful” but as he understood what the name meant, and the troubles the name had brought him, he desired a change. From this, we learn that we don’t have to put up with negative circumstances. Never say, “that is how my life is meant to be. I can’t do anything about it”. Don’t accept the negative things people say about you. What God says is more important!

Well, maybe, you can’t do anything about your negative circumstances, but Jabez points us to the God who can change everything. He is the God who makes bad experiences become good experiences. We can connect with God through prayers.



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What can we learn from Jabez? - Continued

When we pray, we can tell Him how we feel and what we want Him to do for us – just like Jabez did.

When we talk to God in prayers, we are sure that He hears us, and He will answer us and give us what we have asked from Him. God listened to Jabez, and He will listen to you. He has not changed!

But you must be ready to pray. You must pray till you begin to see the bad situations around you becoming good. Don't be tired of praying. Don't give up on praying. Through prayers, you can change things!



Memorize:

John 14:14 - "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it".



Scenario review:

You have just received the report of the tests you did at school. You hoped your performance had improved from last term. You have been finding it hard to concentrate or remember whatever you read, so, you don't do well during assignments. Some people even tell you that you are too dull for school. Well, you opened the report and oops!, not again! The scores were looking really bad as always.

What will you do? Why did you make that choice?





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Remember: God listens when you talk to Him in prayer. He is able and willing to give you all you ask according to His will.



Let us pray: Dear God, I know that whatever I ask in the name of your Son, Jesus, you will do for me according to Your will. Please help me to develop a habit of praying always, for my every need. I ask this in Jesus' name, amen!



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We will like to hear from you.

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