

Why Pray?
To Ask God to Make Your Life a Blessing
1 Chronicles 4:9-10

[Icebreaker] When you were younger, were you given an unflattering nickname or moniker? How did it affect you? Does the name still linger today?

1. Read 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. Take a moment and scan 1 Chronicles: Chapters 1-4:8. What strikes you about this portion of the Old Testament?

2. Given the context, what makes the story of Jabez stand out? What makes it unique?

What's in a Name: The Meaning of Jabez

Hebrew can be a playful language filled with word games and puns. In this case, the name Jabez sounds like the Hebrew word for pain.

3. Jabez was named by his mother, indicating the absence of his father. What was it like in ancient Israel for a wife and children to be without a husband or father?

4. How do you identify with Jabez? What labels or attitudes keep you from knowing God's purpose for your life?

What Jabez did: The Prayer He Prayed

5. List the four requests Jabez asked God and unpack the intent behind each one.

a.

b.

c.

d.

6. How do you know Jabez's prayer was not spawned out of selfishness or a materialistic bent?

7. Read 1 Chronicles 2:55. If the place called Jabez is named after the man, how does this tell you God answered his prayer?

8. What are you asking the Lord to do in your life for the advance His glory?