

Jabez

Powerful Prayers | Week 1 | 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

INTRODUCTION

Inside each of us, I believe there are 3 people: The person you are right now, the person you could become—if you allowed Satan to rule your life, and the person you could become if you allowed God to rule your life. Today, we’re going to talk about a man in the Bible, who I believe demonstrates for us the person we could be if we’d just surrender and let God be God in our lives. His name was Jabez. And while we don’t know a ton about time, we know enough to learn from him.

KEY POINTS

1.His name was a handicap.

The name Jabez in Hebrew literally means, “he causes pain.” His name was pain. It was a name that came from the root word meaning, “sorrowful or painful, or to grieve.”

Many scholars believe he was given this name because his mother experienced extreme trauma while delivering baby Jabez. Perhaps he was born breech...while others suggest that Jabez was born with some sort of physical handicap that would have grieved his mother.

He was born into a reality where he inherited a label. He inherited a stigma from birth that he could have very easily adopted as a defining characteristic of his life. But he didn’t do that.

Jabez was a man that lived in a way that said, “I may not be qualified or have the greatest gifts or abilities, but I’m going to take what I do have and live in a way that makes a difference.” I think that’s what I love most about Jabez.

2. His life was honored.

The Bible tells us that Jabez lived his life well, and he was more honored than others. The word “honored” in Hebrew was a word that meant, “numerous or rich or prosperous.” It’s a word that expressed “extreme blessings” from God.

In fact, when you look up the word used for “honored,” it also had a secondary meaning. Not only did it mean “numerous or rich or prosperous.” It was also a word that meant, “to be heavy.”

NOTES

Lined area for taking notes, consisting of 18 horizontal lines.

# All In with Jordan Easley

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So, when the writer used the word, “honored,” he was painting a picture of God blessing Jabez beyond just normal blessings. He was “heavily” blessed. He was weighed down with the blessings of God. In other words, God loaded Jabez down with His greatest blessings.

### 3. His desire was to be maximized.

Jabez was a man that didn't want to waste time. He wanted to maximize every second that God would give him on earth, but he also realized that he couldn't achieve his maximum potential on his own.

He realized that the fuel that drives a life to becoming maximized for God is the power of prayer. So, what did Jabez do? He prayed, and God heard and responded to Jabez's prayer. From this example, may we all be encouraged to pray powerful prayers and watch how God responds and blesses us.

## NOTES

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## **Jabez**

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### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. Are you content with where you're at with the Lord or would you like to see God bless you and use you in greater ways?
2. What are the unclaimed blessings in your life today?
3. When you think about a life that is maximized, what picture pops into your mind?

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# All In with Jordan Easley

## Jesus

Powerful Prayers | Week 2 | John 17

### INTRODUCTION

In John 17, Jesus gives us access to one of the most intimate moments He had with the Father while He was on earth. As we read about this encounter, we've been given an all-access pass to the Son of God's situation room at one of His life's most pressure-packed moments. He's looking to the sky and talking to God the Father just moments before He would be beaten and crucified and killed, and in that moment, what was on His heart? What did the Son of God pray? That's exactly what we're going to look at in today's message.

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. Jesus prayed for Himself.

In this prayer, Jesus addressed His Father six times. He says "Father" repeatedly, which is a great lesson for us in prayer. We can call upon the Father today because prayer is based on sonship. Prayer is made possible because of relationship. If you have a relationship with God, you have access to God.

Now, Jesus' relationship with the Father is different from our relationship, because Jesus is fully God. He is preeminent and pre-existent, and we're not. However, you and I can pray to our Father today because of our relationship with Him through Christ.

But don't miss what Jesus is saying here. He told God the Father, "You have given me authority over ALL people. All of them." And then He goes on to voice His intentions, His goal for each of us. He said, "Glorify me so that I may give eternal life to everyone you have given me." Jesus said, "My goal is for everyone to have eternal life!"

#### 2. Jesus prayed for His disciples.

After teaching his disciples and walking with them and encouraging them as He had, Jesus took their relationship to an even greater level when He committed them to the Father in prayer.

Imagine what John must have been thinking as he was standing off in the distance, recording the words of Jesus as He prayed. John knew this was a critical moment in the life of Jesus and yet, in that moment, Jesus was praying for what? He was praying for who? He was praying FOR HIM!

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**Jesus**

*Powerful Prayers | Week 2 | John 17*

As Jesus prayed for His disciples, He told the Father:

- My disciples belong to the Father. [v. 6]
- My disciples keep your word. [v. 6]
- My disciples know what they need to know. [v. 7]
- My disciples believe in me. [v. 8]
- My disciples bring glory to my name. [v. 10]

**NOTES**

**3. Jesus prayed for us.**

Jesus knew in this moment that the world would hear the gospel and that generations would have hope because of the Word of God. And so, as Jesus approached the cross, He paused to pray for those of us who would read God's word and believed in Him to be our personal Savior and Lord.

Here Jesus was, on His final approach to the cross and He was thinking forward and praying for us. He wanted to make sure His people were covered and protected. So to ensure this, He prayed for us!

And you know what? If you know Christ, if you are IN Christ, if you are a child of God, the Bible says Jesus not only prayed for you in this prayer, but He is sitting at the right hand of the Father right now and He is praying for you today!

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# All In with Jordan Easley

## Jesus

*Powerful Prayers | Week 2 | John 17*

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Have you ever had someone pray OVER you? Not just FOR you, but over you?
2. How does it make you feel and what does it make you think when you hear that Jesus was praying for you before He went to the cross?
3. What can you learn about Jesus from His prayer to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane?

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## Jonah

*Powerful Prayers | Week 3 | Jonah 1-3*

### INTRODUCTION

As we read today's text, we'll see that God called the messenger, but when God called the messenger, the messenger refused the call. Jonah rejected the call of God on his life. But as messed up as that may be, Jonah did something even worse. You see, Jonah didn't just reject the incoming call from God and send it to voicemail. No. He answered the phone. He heard God's voice on the other line. He received clear instructions from God on what He was supposed to do next, and yet, because of his selfishness, his bias, and his personal rebellion, he chose to hang up the phone and run in the opposite direction of where God was instructing him to go. Thankfully, Jonah eventually came to repentance, and we can learn from his life story as we dive deeper into it.

### KEY POINTS

#### **1. The remedy for rebellion is repentance.**

Jonah modeled what true repentance looks like for each of us in this story. He did so by doing a few specific things:

- He recognized his own rebellion.
- He repented from his sin.
- He remembered whom He belonged to.
- He returned to His Father.

The remedy for rebellion is repentance. Repentance opens the window of grace. I've heard people ask over the years: Which came first – the chicken or the egg? In the same way, we may wonder: Which came first – repentance or grace? In Jonah's story, God's grace led to Jonah's repentance & Jonah's repentance led to God's grace. God provided windows of grace on either side of Jonah's rebellion.

Here are a few ways God's grace showed up in the midst of Jonah's life:

- Jonah was running in rebellion away from God—God gave him a window of grace, for a period of time.
- The God who called Jonah—was the same God who corrected Jonah.
- He experienced consequences that resulted from his sin.
- Jonah cried out to God from the belly of the fish.
- He repented from his rebellion—God responded to his repentance and opened another window of grace that came in the form of a gag reflex.

### NOTES

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## Jonah

*Powerful Prayers | Week 3 | Jonah 1-3*

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What is your response when you find yourself in a seemingly hopeless situation?
2. Are you living in opposition to God's will or are you living in partnership with Him?
3. Have you ever rejected a call from God when He spoke clearly to you about something? If so, what was that call about?

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