Making Disciples

Notes for Group Session Thirteen

Prayers in Scripture

Session Goals

1. The disciple will be able to write a short prayer based on part of a prayer in Scripture
2. The disciple will explain two things that Jesus prayed for us.
3. The disciple will describe something he/she thanks God for.

Start by discussing last week's Action Steps. Pray for one another thanking God for successes and praying where there have been difficulties applying last week's session.

Introduction

The Bible records many prayers and by reading these prayers and seeing how God answered we can learn more about prayer. See which ones you relate to that you would want to pray.

The prayer of Jabez

*1 Chronicles 4:10 "Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, 'Oh, that you would **bless me** and **enlarge my border,** and that your hand might be with me, and that you would **keep me from harm,** so that it might not bring me pain.' and God granted what he asked."*

Let's use this prayer as an example of how we can personalize these prayers. Jabez started with "oh that you would bless me"; he was saying "God give me your supernatural favor". (Proverbs 10:22) He wanted everything God had for him. You can, like Jabez did, ask for a blessing or you can be specific; for instance, God bless my business or my family, or my job.

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Then he asked God to “enlarge his border” He was saying “give me more land, or a greater influence or a bigger ministry”. This can be specific too. For instance, “God give me opportunities to meet new people to talk about you or give me the extra space our family needs.”

And finally, he asked to be kept from harm, he could have been asking for protection against natural disasters, or from attacks from others, or sickness or the devils’ temptations. You can pray this in any area you think is necessary.

These three requests are simple, but they can be as big as you want them to be. They can apply to you or your children, your friends or your church apply it anyway God leads you. Gods’ response will be as it was to Jabez “God granted what he asked.”

Jonah’s prayer for Salvation

Jonah 2:1-9 “Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish’s belly. And he said: I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, and He answered me. (He was desperate) Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice. (He was still in the whale’s belly) For You cast me into the deep. Into the heart of the seas and the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me. Then I said, “I have been cast out of your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple. (He had faith God was hearing his prayer) The water surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. I went down to the moorings of the mountains: The earth with its bars closed behind me forever. Yet you have brought up my life from the pit. (He prayed out what he knew God would do) Oh Lord my God when my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord: and my prayer went up to you, into Your Holy temple. Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice to you with the voice of thanksgiving. I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.”

Jonah 2:10 “So the Lord spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.” (God’s answer)

David’s prayers for deliverance

Psalm 3 “Lord, how they have increased to trouble me! (David is crying out to the Lord during great stress) Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me,” There is no help for him in God. “But you O Lord are a shield for

me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head. (He confesses that the Lord is His shield, and his glory despite what others say). I cried to the Lord with my voice. And he heard me from his holy hill. I lay down and slept. I awoke for the Lord sustained me. (He was able to sleep despite his troubles) I will not be afraid (He was confident) of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, oh Lord save me. (a simple cry for help) Oh my God. For you have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon your people."

Psalm 91:1-16 "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the most high will rest in the shadow of the almighty. I will say of the Lord "He is my refuge and my fortress my God in whom I trust.' Surely, he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence he will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand but it will not come near you. You will observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. If you say 'The Lord is my refuge and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.' 'Because he loves me,' says the Lord, 'I will rescue him; I will protect him for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.'"

Psalm 25:1-7 "To you O Lord I lift up my soul; in you I trust, Oh my God. Do not let me be put to shame or let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse, show me your ways O Lord teach me your paths: guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior and my hope is in you all day long. Remember O Lord your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love me remember me for you are good, O Lord."

David's prayer of repentance

Psalm 51:1-19 "Have mercy on me, O God according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so, you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways so that sinners will turn back to you. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness. Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice for I would bring it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. May it please you to prosper Zion and build up the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will delight and the sacrifices of the righteous in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar."

Prayer of thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1-3 "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south."

Apostolic Prayers

These are prayers in the New Testament prayed by Jesus or His disciples, we can personalize these and pray these prayers or use them to get insights into how God led them to pray as we know He still has the same desires.

Jesus' prayer for His disciples

John 17:20-24 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in me through their word; that they all may be one, as you, Father, are in Me, and I in You. That they also may be one in Us. That the world may believe that you sent Me, and the glory which you gave Me I have given them. That they may be one, just as We are one, I in them, and You in Me. That they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that you have sent Me and have loved them as you loved Me. Father, I desire that they also whom you gave Me, may be with Me where I am, that they may behold my glory which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world."

Prayers by the apostles

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Paul writes, "How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May He strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones." NIV

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 "With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power He will bring to fruition, your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Colossians 1:9-12 "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the wisdom of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious mind, so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light."

Ephesians 1:17-20 "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. the power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,"

Ephesians 3:16-21 "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. and I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more then all we ask or imagine, according to his power that it is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever! Amen."

Action Steps

- Write out one of the prayers for someone or a group of people in your own life by adding their name and the prayers you pray for them.

- Ask God to increase in your life those things that Jesus prayed for us. Share with the group next week what you have been asking God for that is in that prayer.