

# revive

God has called us for **A TIME SUCH AS THIS**.  
A time to **REVIVE HEALTH, REVIVE FUTURES**  
and **REVIVE HOPE** in His name.

## Revive **YOUTH** bible study

### **OPENING ACTIVITY**

Give each participant two pieces of paper. On one, they write down a blessing in their life. On the other, they write a challenge or hardship.

Have them place the blessings in a jar or box labelled "God's Blessings" and the challenges in another box labelled "Prayers for Change."

**Discuss:** How does it feel to ask God to change something difficult in your life? How do blessings and challenges affect the way we pray?

### **READ 1 CHRONICLES 4:9-10**

- Ask a few participants to share what stands out to them about Jabez's prayer.
- What does it mean that Jabez prayed for God to "expand his territory"?

- How did Jabez trust God to protect him from "trouble and pain"?
- How do you think God answered Jabez's prayer?

### **SASMITA'S STORY**



This is 18 year old Sasmita. Sasmita has never had a friend for tea. She's never shown anyone around her village or been able to sit laughing together by the river where she collects water. Sasmita lives a double life. Desperate to break free from poverty and improve life for her family, she's studied as hard as she can. She is really bright, and has done well in both her GCSE and A-level equivalent exams.

Sasmita was born in a leprosy colony- a village populated by people affected by leprosy. She has escaped the horrors of this disease herself, but

both her mother and her father are badly disabled. Because people affected by leprosy are so badly discriminated against, Sasmita feels that she has to hide part of herself from her friends. "If my school friends found out I lived here, they wouldn't talk to me anymore. They'd turn their backs on me, and I'd be pushed out. So I've kept it a secret. Sometimes it's so hard. I get invited to my friend's house, I really want to go but I can't in case my friend's parents start asking questions. I have to make some excuse. I'm always so scared someone will find out." Sasmita starts to cry. It's obvious that keeping this secret has understandably had a big impact on her life.

"Every day is spent helping to look after the house. Sweeping, washing the clothes, and making chapatis. My mother struggles so much with clawed hands and bad ulcers on her feet, but she still goes to the local town to beg. My father barely has feet but still he looks after the goats. I feel so sad when I see them. How would you feel if your parents had to go and beg?"

"They've done everything they can for me and my older sister. They made sure I didn't miss a day of school. Now I want to look after them and give them the best I can."

Sasmita has managed to do a very basic IT course in the local town, but she needs a proper IT course to make her attractive to employers. She'd love to join a Leprosy Vocational Training Centre, where she would be able to do complete her training and make her dream a reality. She's determined to build a better life for herself and her family. She just needs the opportunity.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you think Sasmita feels, knowing she has to keep her family a secret?
- How does her desire to support her parents show strength and love, even in the face of hardship?

- Sasmita asks, "How would you feel if your parents had to go and beg?"
- How can we be like Jabez and pray for "expanded territory" in Sasmita's life—helping her access education and opportunities to change her family's future?
- How can we ask God to use us to bless people like Sasmita and her parents?
- What practical things can we do to help people affected by leprosy have better lives and opportunities? Could you as a group run a fundraiser to raise money for people affected by leprosy like Sasmita?

## PRAYER TIME

Lead the group in a time of prayer modelled after the prayer of Jabez. Encourage them to pray for blessings, protection, and expanded opportunities for people like Sasmita.

Pray for the young people affected by leprosy, that they would have opportunities to break free from poverty and stigma, just like Sasmita dreams of doing.

## FINAL REFLECTION

Encourage participants to continue praying for the needs of others throughout the week, especially for young people like Sasmita who are working hard to overcome their circumstances.




End with a challenge to pray like Jabez for bold changes, both in their own lives and in the lives of people facing hardship.

**The Leprosy Mission** 

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