

## ***Digging Deeper***

### **Thoughtful Questions for This Week's Message by Pastor Scott**

#### **Welcome to *Digging Deeper*!**

We're launching a new weekly blog series designed to help you engage more deeply with Sunday's message. Whether you're new to church or have been following Jesus for decades, these discussion questions are meant to help you reflect, apply, and talk through the truths we explore together each week. You can use them on your own, with your family, or in a group setting.

Let's dig into this week's message from Pastor Scott:

#### **The Purpose of Pain**

##### **1 Chronicles 4:9–10**

Pain is something we all experience, physically, emotionally, spiritually. But in Sunday's message, Pastor Scott reminded us that pain doesn't have to be wasted. In fact, Scripture shows us that pain has a purpose. Through the story of Jabez, a man whose very name meant "pain," we saw that God not only hears us in our struggle, He can bless us through it.

So how do we shift our mindset and open our hearts to what God might be doing through pain? Let's reflect together.

#### **Reflecting on the Passage**

- Jabez's name means "pain," yet he prayed boldly for blessing and expansion. What stands out to you in his request? How does his approach to pain reshape how you view your own hardships?
- According to 1 Peter 1:6–7, trials refine our faith. In what areas of your life do you sense God using pain to strengthen or purify you?
- Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 1:9 that suffering drove him to rely on God. What is a situation where you need to stop relying on yourself and start leaning on God?

#### **Personal Application**

- Pastor Scott said, "Pain wakes us." Think of a time when suffering got your attention. What did God reveal to you through it?

- Which part of the “Prayer of Purposeful Pain” (blessing, expansion, presence, protection, promise) do you need to focus on most right now, and why?

### **Exploring Faith**

- C.S. Lewis wrote, “Pain is God’s megaphone.” How has God “shouted” to you through difficulty? What did you hear most clearly?
- Timothy Keller wrote that suffering can drive us “like a nail deep into the love of God.” What might it look like to respond to pain in a way that anchors you more deeply in God’s love rather than resentment or bitterness?

### **Community Impact**

- How might God be calling you to walk alongside someone else who is in pain, sharing not just encouragement but the hope and presence of Christ?
- What would it look like for us, as a church, to become a community that embraces pain as part of God’s refining work, rather than something to avoid or hide?

### **Closing Thoughts**

Pain isn’t easy. But as Pastor Scott reminded us, it’s often through pain that we are awakened, refined, humbled, and drawn closer to God. Like Jabez, we can pray boldly, not to avoid pain, but to grow through it with God’s presence and promise guiding us.

We hope these questions lead you into deeper conversations with God and with others. Join us again next week for more ways to dig deeper into God’s Word and grow in faith together.

Grace and peace,

The Belle Isle Community Church Team