

## Our Father's blessing

God also blesses us in our hearts. As children of our heavenly Father, we have the **joy** of knowing Him in a very close way by having His Spirit live inside us. We have the **peace** of knowing that we are forgiven and no longer need to feel guilty or ashamed of what we have done (see Romans 4:17). We have a **hope** within us that keeps us looking forward to the time when we will go to be with our Father in heaven.

### **Can we ask a blessing for ourselves?**

Yes we can, especially if we ask God for something specific, as a man called Jabez did in 1 Chronicles 4:10.

In what way would you like the Lord to bless you? As you think about what you would ask, remember that God's way of doing things is that we should freely give of whatever we receive. God will not encourage selfishness by giving us things that become so important that we can't let them go.

### **Can we ask the Lord to bless someone else?**

The words "God bless" can be more than a greeting or a word of kindness. If you really mean what you say and have faith in God, your words of blessing can be powerful, just like the blessings spoken to people in the Bible.

### **Does God's blessing mean a life without trouble?**

Being blessed makes one think of being perfectly content and having all we need. God's blessing certainly includes good things, but we can also be blessed when we don't have enough; when things aren't going so well or when we are feeling down. Some blessings come later in life and the greatest blessing of all will only come in eternity. Jesus spoke about this blessing when He taught His followers about His kingdom (see Matthew 5:3-12).