

# PRAY FIRST

## The Blessing Of God

(Part 1 of a 4 part series)

### INTRODUCTION

**1 Chronicles 4:9-10 NIV**, "Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request."

#### The prayer of Jabez is a simple yet profound cry to God.

It reveals the heart of someone who trusted deeply in God's character and sought His blessings, presence, purpose, and protection. Over the next four weeks, we'll explore each element of this prayer to discover how it applies to our lives and inspires us to grow in faith through intentional, expectant prayer. Let's allow this journey through Scripture to allow God's Word to challenge and transform us.

### AS A CHURCH

As we begin 2025, we as a church are committing to pray and set our expectation on Jesus and what He desires for our church in the year to come. What we do **FIRST** has great significance in the Kingdom of God. We tithe our first, we honour Jesus first, we acknowledge He is our first love and we consult God **FIRST** before we get on with our own plans.

In the life of Jabez, we see the heartfelt prayer of a man who understood the character & nature of God. Similarly, as we pray, we are aligning our desires & expectations with the character & will of Jesus **FIRST** before attempting anything in our strength.

### RESOURCE

We would love to invite you to watch this powerful teaching video about the Prayer Of Jabez, as you go through this study together: [Prayer Of Jabez - Radiant Church: Ps Aaron Burke](#)

### A GROUP STUDY: THE BLESSING OF GOD

#### Key Verse

**1 Chron 4:10a** says, "Oh, that you would bless me..."

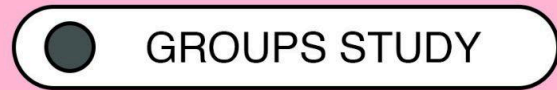
#### Discovery

Jabez begins his prayer by asking God for blessing. He desired to live a life enriched by God's favor, aligned with His will, and marked by His presence and provision. The Hebrew word for "bless" implies a deep longing for God's favour, provision, and guidance. True blessing flows from a relationship with God and reflects His goodness in our lives. Jabez sought a life enriched by God's presence and alignment with His will.

#### Discussion

Starting Question: Why is it sometimes difficult to ask God for blessings? Does it feel selfish?

Exploring Questions:



Jabez's prayer reminds us that God delights in blessing His children. As we seek His blessings, let's align our desires with His will, ensuring that our hearts are positioned to glorify Him.

**Ask yourself:** Am I living in a way that welcomes and reflects God's blessings?

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Do you have a story or testimony to share? Email us at [stories@hillsong.co.za](mailto:stories@hillsong.co.za)