



# PRAY FIRST

## The Purpose Of God

Part 3 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 PURPOSE OF GOD

#### Key Verse

**1 Chron 4:10a** says, “Enlarge my territory...”

#### Discovery

Jabez’s request to enlarge his territory wasn’t about personal ambition but about greater influence and opportunity to fulfill God’s purposes. He desired to steward more for God’s glory, expanding his impact in alignment with God’s plan.

#### Discussion

Starting Question: What does it mean to pray for greater territory or influence in your life?

Exploring Questions:

1. How can enlarging your territory be about serving others rather than self-promotion? (Matthew 5:16)
2. What areas of your life might God be calling you to step into with greater faith and responsibility?



GROUPS STUDY

When we ask God to enlarge our territory, we're inviting Him to use us for His kingdom purposes. Let's embrace opportunities to impact others for Christ and trust Him to equip us.

**Ask yourself:** Am I prepared to steward greater influence for God's glory?

Check out [www.hillsongafrica.com/...](http://www.hillsongafrica.com/...) For more information our our CHURCH WIDE 7 DAY FAST from 19-26 January 2025

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