



PRAY FIRST

The Protection Of God

Part 4 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 PROTECTION OF GOD

Key Verse

1 Chron 4:10b says, “Keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain...”

Discovery

Jabez’s prayer ends with a heartfelt plea for protection. He understood that success, blessing, and purpose often bring challenges and even spiritual opposition. By asking for God’s protection, Jabez acknowledged his need for divine refuge, trusting that only God could shield him from harm and guide him through trials. Just as the psalmist declares in **Psalm 46:1**, “*God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble,*” Jabez sought the safety and peace that comes from resting in God’s care.

Discussion

Starting Question: Obedience, righteousness and repentance are all keys to walking in the protection of God.



GROUPS STUDY

Action Question: This week, pray daily for God’s protection over a specific area of your life or a loved one’s life. Reflect on how this changes your trust in Him.

Devotion

God’s protection isn’t the absence of challenges but the assurance of His presence and care. Let’s trust Him to guard our lives and guide us through every difficulty.

Ask yourself: Am I fully relying on God’s protection, or am I trying to shield myself in my own strength?

Check out 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