

DIGGING DEEPER



Series: Capital Campaign 2007
Sermon: **Outside the Box**
Clarifying the Vision
Scripture: 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

GETTING STARTED

As a group, discuss your feelings about the prayer of Jabez from 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. Does it make you uncomfortable to pray for material blessings? How can we go too far in asking for God's blessings in financial matters?

BIBLE STUDY

1. Considering that "Jabez" means sorrow, suffering and pain, how could Jabez have been negatively influenced by his name and its implications?
2. Jabez prayed "Let your hand be with me..." In seeking God's hand upon him, what was Jabez saying about his willingness to be submissive to God's will?
3. What does the fact that God granted the request of Jabez suggest about God's attitude towards this prayer?
4. Read James 4:2-3. What counsel are we given in these verses which, when coupled with the principles of the prayer of Jabez, help to guide us in our prayers for God's blessings?
 - Considering James' advice in verse 3 about motives, how do we need to be careful as a church as we pray for God to provide resources for land and a building?

APPLY IT

Write out a prayer on behalf of our church as we seek to buy land and build a building that encompasses the elements of the prayer of Jabez:

God's Permission (bless me)
God's Provision (enlarge my territory)
God's Presence (Your hand with me)
God's Protection (keep me from harm)