

# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## 7-Day Bible & Prayer Plan

### **1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV**

*<sup>10</sup> 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***

**Note:** We encourage you to read the introduction, theme and background to this plan to get the most out of it.



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7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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How to use the bible study and prayer plan for enlarging and breaking new ground in your life and church:

## BACKGROUND

### Introduction

This is the third in a series of bible & prayer plans that have been written to help us all to 'Engage' in prayer and move forwards in faith together. As an Elim Pentecostal Church Movement, we have discovered that prayer lays solid foundation for change when done consistently and purposefully. Prayer brings lasting transformation to our lives and that of our communities by connecting us with God in the power of the Holy Spirit. In this Engage Prayer season, we have felt burdened to provide an opportunity for the whole Elim movement to join in corporate prayer, fasting, bible meditation, encouragement, and worship. This is an ideal opportunity for us to hear God speak to us prophetically.

At the heart of Elim there is a deep desire to hear from God, and then respond to what He says. There is a real burden to equip our churches to be mission ready. This season's theme provides a vehicle to grow and enlarge our thinking, move with faith steps, and be challenged to break new ground. The Elim Prayer Team wants to encourage prayer for individuals, groups, and churches and to see increased fruit in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our prayer focus can sometimes drift, and our hearts be distracted. We can sometimes become stuck in maintaining what we have and miss the huge opportunities available to break new ground and experience the excitement of pioneering. We earnestly pray that this new 7-day plan will stimulate faith and help us all in our journey towards actioning God's plans. We are convinced that God means us to discover the joy of being part of His Great Commission. If we do, we will be participating in the fulfilment of God's vision for Elim to be equipped and ready for mission. The Holy Spirit provides us with the power and strength to move forwards, and is always available, consistent, and boundless in scope.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## What is Engage Prayer?

If you are joining in with Engage Prayer for the first time, we want you to know that prayer has become part of the national rhythm of our Elim Movement. We believe it is a time to intentionally set aside time to fast and pray, worship, and seek God together regularly. How powerful it is when we all come together in unity (Psalm 133:1-3)! By encouraging corporate prayer, we begin to hear God's heart for the people, places and spaces in which we are planted. Greater depths of intercession and research within communities result in unexpected revelations that have a real bearing on strongholds. These kind of insights about our communities are only uncovered in prayer and are straight from the heart of God who brings things to light.

We invite you, and the churches and ministries that you represent, to use this seven-day Engage Prayer Plan to prepare the way, participate in, and seal what God wants to do through us. We can also join in prayer as one movement of many Churches across many nations of the world. In this season, we believe God wants us to enlarge our hearts and dig deeper foundations and wells in the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe the result will be an expansion of God's influence in all the regions. This will release greater zeal for evangelism, prophetic insight and apostolic church planting in the years to come.

It is our firm belief that your willing engagement with this bible and prayer plan will bring greater stimulus in our prayer life and growth. We encourage you to set aside quality time daily both as individuals, and as a whole church family.

## The purpose of this plan

The plan has been designed to help us to draw closer to God in prayer, the study of scripture, and greater depths of worship. It is intended to be a tool to stimulate creativity by helping us complement our natural and spiritual giftings. Our desire is to help us all by attuning our ears to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. By doing this God will speak to us, and through us prophetically. By tuning in to Him closely, we will hear what He is saying about our needy and diverse communities.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

engageprayer

## What is in each Engage Prayer daily plan?

As in previous plans, each day will follow a similar pattern, building sensitivity and deeper understanding about Jesus' heart for the church and community. It is hoped that whole Churches will engage in this together. Over the years, experience has shown that joining together in prayer and study of scripture results in a greater understanding of God's intentions, and of our part in them. Prayer opens our hearts to hear God. It is often accompanied by a challenge to soften our hearts, repent, receive healing and generally prepare the ground for God to move in power.

This Engage Prayer Plan covers seven daily study guides in two parts, in line with our theme: 1 Enlarge and 2 Strengthen. Following this simple outline will help us prepare to respond and be activated. The plan is designed as a tool to help us draw near to God. We pray it will aid understanding, and our need to serve and minister from His power and not our own. The plan affords us opportunity to spend time reflecting, but also to be motivated to serve God and be encouraged by seeing Him working through us. God will already have prepared a way for us to go and bear fruit, if we come to Him with open hearts.

We do hope that you find this plan useful, and a real help to engage with our seasonal theme. The practical strategies are prepared so we find real help to be "enlarged" as we read God's word and "break new ground" as we pray together. Be encouraged and strengthened to grow in effective service of God our heavenly Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit.



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7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

engageprayer

## THE BIBLE PRAYER PLAN

### Key Scripture

As an Elim Prayer Team, God led us to this scripture and then began to illuminate aspects of it through prophetic words. The Holy Spirit impressed on us these verses, and their importance to our Elim Movement at this time. This is the key scripture:

**Isaiah 54:1-4 NIV**

**The Future Glory of Zion**

54 "Sing, barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labour; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband," says the Lord.

2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. 3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities. 4 "Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.

### Our Theme

For those of you who have participated in previous Engage Prayer events, you will remember that this year (2022) was to be one of refreshing and release. Also, a time to move forward into all God has for us as his people in the power of the Holy Spirit. In recent months God has been speaking to the team about going on to another level by further enlarging and strengthening our lives and churches. The key scripture verses in **Isaiah 54:1-4** seem to be relevant.

Whilst in meditation and prayer, we felt that God showed us a significant call to our whole Elim Movement, to lengthen chords and strengthen stakes (as described in the key scripture). We sensed this represents **enlargement** and **deepening foundations** so that they are **strengthened**. As a result of this, our 7-Day Bible and Prayer plan theme emerged. Each day we will look at different aspects of this scripture, digging deeper. We will investigate the typology (symbols) and prophetic insight revealed to the people of Israel, and how they apply to us today. We believe the Holy Spirit wants us to know and understand more about, and be prepared for, the times in which we are living.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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Throughout this week we welcome the presence and power of Holy Spirit. We want Him to enlarge and strengthen us, touch our hearts, and deepen our understanding of God's purposes for the two parts of our theme. This will include to:

## Enlarging Hearts

- Enlarge our hearts and recognise that for our faith and influence to grow, we need to be stretched and challenged to face change.
- Invite God to indwell us and have permission to re-focus our hearts and minds on His presence, purpose and priorities.
- Increase our capacity for God and be enlarged in faith to serve Him effectively and fruitfully, and embrace God's prophetic voice.

## Breaking Ground

- Recognise the need to make changes, to take up and relocate the stakes that define our limits in our faith walk and ministry.
- Ensure that our foundations and anchorage are in the right place, dealing with any restrictions and limitations that come with lifestyle.
- Allow God to give us eyes to see and ears to hear Him creatively. This will allow God to use the most unlikely and seemingly ill-equipped people to break new ground and act on what He says.

## Each days outline

The daily outline will follow this pattern:

- Prayer Focus
- A suggested worship song that accompanies the theme
- The Key verse of scripture from the central passage
- Setting the scene

## Enlarging Hearts:

- **Mandate** – A focus for the day based on the theme and scripture verse
- **Standing** – Where are we in the process of enlargement?
- **Hearing** – Are we in a place to hear God?
- **Responding** – Are we ready to respond to God?
- **Prayer for Enlargement** – To be responsive to the Holy Spirit



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## Breaking Ground:

- **Planning** – Taking stock of what God requires and preparing well
- **Strategy** – Looking at what tools and research are necessary
- **Mobilising** – Together making a difference
- **Timing** – What does God require and when?
- **Prayer of faith** - Like a muscle, faith needs exercise to strengthen and reach full potential.

**Prayer for the day** - A response and pre-prepared prayer at the end of each day's devotions.

## Key Scripture by Verse

Each daily plan contains a reference to the section of verse from our Key scripture passage in Isaiah 54:1-4. There will also be complementary passages that will be included.

## Worship Songs of the Week

Worship songs have been deliberately included as part of this plan because worship is central to our relationship with God. He loves to receive our worship in spirit and in truth. Songs of worship help us to centre our hearts and minds. They are an amazing stimulus to hearing from God as we cry out to Him in prayer and intercession.

We commend these songs to you. They are applicable for the whole weeks theme.

**Build Your Church** – Upon this rock – Elim Sound

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/ZJBBYfLCETA>

**Deeper Places** – Lord I want to know You more - Gabriel Allred. © CFN Music

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/7ZuYKYtv-hQ>

Have a listen to these worship songs as part of our preparation. The lyrics are profound. Jesus is central. They declare the truth of our foundation in Him, and His victory already won. As we seek enlarged hearts and break new ground, there is cry for greater depth and knowledge of Him. Worship is great starting place as we pray, look at scriptural truths, and work our way through this Bible/Prayer Plan. Come Holy Spirit!

Each day's notes contain an additional worship song you can to listen to as part of our devotions. There is a www.internet link if you are using the pdf file copy of the plan.



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7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

engageprayer

## **And Finally**

We commend the plan to you. Prayerfully enter in, and fully participate each day if you can. Enjoy it, be challenged, changed, motivated and blessed. Give God quality time during the week. Be purposeful and let God enlarge our hearts, strengthen our foundations, and give us deeper understanding of His will and purpose.

*"Prayer is not only asking, it is an attitude of heart that produces an atmosphere in which asking is perfectly natural, and Jesus says, "everyone that asketh receiveth."*

**Oswald Chambers** (early-twentieth-century Scottish Baptist evangelist and teacher)

We are praying that God will advance His kingdom through us, for His glory. With our love.

***The Elim Prayer Team***



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

engageprayer

## Enlarging Hearts - Breaking Ground

### Day 1

**Today:** Sing! Burst into song! Shout for joy!

**Prayer Focus:** Let us pray the Holy Spirit will release joy and strength to us today.

**Worship Song of the day:** Shout for Joy – Paul Baloche

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/zR2ukx6to7I>

### Setting the scene

What a way to start our week of bible meditation and prayer, by praising God! We can do this even when we don't feel like it. It's a choice we make to engage our will and it makes a real difference spiritually. Here's some encouragement at the start of our week of prayer.

In the 1970's there was a powerful move of God in established Church denominations which birthed fresh expressions. The Holy Spirit's power was released in a fresh spiritual outpouring. It awakened the church across the world. Our own United Kingdom was included. Individuals and churches experienced growth, and it became known as the Charismatic Movement. Historically, parts of the UK had already seen this sort of Revival. It had occurred in Cornwall England 1814-1835, in Wales 1904-1905, the Scottish Hebrides Islands 1949-1953. During the new Charismatic Movements season, there were many books written with testimony and teaching. Some of these showed the power of praise and worship to work miracles and transform lives. You may also have heard of further outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Toronto Canada in 1995, and Pensacola (Brownsville) USA also in 1995-2000. In 1999, The Sentinel Group produced a series of powerful "Transformations" documentaries. These showed God's power at work across the world often during times of great national turmoil and trial. All of these, and other such moves of God demonstrate the truth of our key scripture for this week, highlighting the power of the Holy Spirit to break new spiritual ground.

Today's key verse carries insight about the power of praise! It is written at a time in the life of the Jewish people and the Nation of Israel in 740-700 BC.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

engageprayer

**Isaiah 54:1-4 NIV**

**The Future Glory of Zion**

54 **“Sing, barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labour; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband,” says the Lord.**

Firstly, it would be good to consider the context of the above verse. We do this by considering the life and times of the Jewish people. The verses speak about a people who were spiritually barren—note that the Jewish nation were once forsaken by God, and therefore during that time destitute of spiritual children (**Isa 54:6**). These verses carry similarities for us in our world today. However, it doesn't have to be this way if we choose to cry out to God and give Him the praise that is due His Name. The minor prophet puts it this way.

**Zephaniah 3:14 NIV**

**<sup>14</sup> Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel!**

**Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!**

Today we are being encouraged to Praise God, regardless of our circumstances. This is often costly and can be tough to do. We've already mentioned that miracles can happen when we do! For example, we can think about the account about Paul and Silas in **Acts 16:16-40**. Briefly, they were beaten and put in prison. They worshipped and praised and as a result, there was an earthquake. Doors came open, chains came off! Their behaviour touched the jailor, and he and his family were transformed!

**Prayer:** *Lord, please help me to have the courage and determination of Paul and Silas as they faced great persecution for their faith and testimony. Help me to praise you during even during great hardship and pressure. We want to see You move in sovereign power in our lives, families and churches. In Jesus Name. Amen.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## Enlarging Hearts:

Let's dig a little deeper and begin to look at ways in which we can allow God to enlarge our hearts and minds by releasing praise and magnifying the Name of the Lord.

- **Mandate** – Today would be good to **find meaningful reasons to praise God**. Think about God's goodness, His faithfulness, His grace, His forgiveness, His acceptance of us, even when we sometimes mess up. The **Isaiah 54 v1** doesn't say - If you feel like it or; When you have the time or; when things are going well. It says Sing oh barren! Its almost a command! It means do it when we are dry, fruitless, low and without very much to offer. Remember that as the Church, we are the Bride of Christ which is a huge privilege. That fact is enough to Praise God for on its own! Enlargement comes by determination to respond to this sort of command.
- **Standing** – When pressures come our way, let's choose to praise God in the middle of challenging circumstances. Making the choice to praise, even when we don't feel like it, and it will lead to an expansion of our heart capacity. It will also increase our understanding of scripture and the ways of God by stretching us. By faith we praise Him, and the result is up to God. Standing firm and resolute in Him expands faith. Faith is a muscle, and muscles need to be exercised otherwise they waste away. By praise and declaration of God's word, we are allowing a growth process to begin in our heart that leads to growth in maturity of faith and trust in Him.

**2 Corinthians 5:7 NIV** *For we live by faith, not by sight.*

- **Hearing** – Often our challenging circumstances result in our minds and emotions being scattered and disordered, resulting in difficulty concentrating. This is a prime opportunity to choose and bring these thoughts into order by operating our will.

**2 Corinthians 10:5 NIV**

*We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

Are we in a place to hear God today, or have we shut down a bit? Let the word of God come alive in us, and by declaration we will experience increase in freedom and liberty, especially as we verbally give praise to the Lord. Hearing His word by declaring it aloud is a great way to build faith and trust. Try reading the verses of scripture aloud now.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

engageprayer

## **Jeremiah 20:13 NIV**

*13 Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.*

- **Responding** – Are we ready to respond to God? Certainly, God wants us to be! There is power in praise, even considering the challenges of life and the uncertainty of daily circumstances and pressures. Now is the time to respond and find a way through any obstacles in our hearts and minds. Sometimes it is good to have a strategy to ‘face down’ the things that try to hinder us whether they are within or external. Despite these things, let’s be determined to do these three things:
  - 1 Choose to praise God in all circumstances **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**
  - 2 Choose to take captive thoughts as in **2 Corinthians 10:5**
  - 3 Choose to remember things to give God thanks for, and speak them aloud.
- **Prayer for Enlargement** – Let’s respond to all these thoughts by praying now.

*Lord, we choose to give you praise even during challenging times. Our hearts are grateful for Your presence with us even when we don’t necessarily feel it. We choose to obey Your word and respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who releases Your power and points to You through scripture. Thank You for Your love and faithfulness. **In Jesus Name. Amen.***

## **Breaking Ground:**

To break new ground, we need to anchor ourselves in Christ Jesus knowing He is with us. If we do, we will inevitably find a good plan right at the start of our journey of faith. Before moving there needs to be a ‘Selah!’ moment, which means, to ‘stop and think about that’. All of this before we move forward. Acting on our ideas will follow God’s time.

- **Planning** – We need to take stock of what God requires of us and prepare well. Today’s emphasis is to ‘Sing! Burst into song! Shout for joy!’. For some of us it may be a real challenge. We considered this in our first part, Enlarging Hearts. We know that planning (for a new house or similar) comes before the contractor starts on site. How much more should we as Christians give time to plan and listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying. Proper planning is needed in order for us to grow as we prepare to adventure into God’s plans for our lives.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

engageprayer

## **Ephesians 2:10 NIV**

*<sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

As disciples of Jesus God wants us to grow and fulfil His purposes. What are they? Today they are to learn to praise Him more than ever. We should never be surprised there's more in God's plans than we think there is. This simple act of praising Him leads to the removal of spiritual limitations by releasing new faith. Then we become bolder to take faith steps to follow in His ways, however challenging they may be. God has a definite plan for us, so let's open our hearts and minds to something greater than ourselves, and initiate our faith! This process is part of breaking new ground. When we do step out in God's strength and then look back, it will be something to give God thanks and praise for!

## **Jeremiah 29:11 NIV**

*<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Praising God during all things will often require mental, emotional and physical effort and energy. God uses our natural creativity to advance His Kingdom. We need to ensure our progress is in the power and strength of the Lord Himself. He releases it to us as we step out, He can't do this if we are static. Stepping out is risky, but doing so always results in our having grateful thanks and praise for the Lord, who never fails.

- **Strategy** – To break new ground we need the right tools and resources. Before we use them, we need to ensure we are in the right place, and often need a map. Then, to know what is to be built we need designs and blueprints. All of this is preceded by research and investigation. God has equipped each of us with gifts and graces to serve Him. They need to be used and utilised in the right way for the extension of God's Kingdom in our villages, towns and cities. Our personalities and spiritual awareness need to be developed and expanded respectively. Praising God is something we can all do. When we raise our voices, something happens inside us, and atmospheres change too. This is part of God's blueprint for transformation.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## **1 Peter 4:10 NIV**

*<sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

As part of the strategy to break new ground spiritually, praise and worship is in the vanguard of progress. It is important to develop our prayer life, and gain increased knowledge and understanding of scripture. We often do this in discipleship groups and fellowship together. Praise and worship contribute to the digging process, and establish foundations for God to enlarge our hearts, and also recognise expanded territory within us. When we discover our place in God's plans and become comfortable with it, a new release of joy and peace will emerge.

Praising God helps realign our thinking because we change focus from ourselves and onto God Himself. Then He is able to reveal His strategies. He will show us where to dig, who to use, what tools are needed, and most importantly His masterplan. Working together with others, we make a real difference, which we will now look at in more detail.

## **Proverbs 9:9 NIV**

*<sup>9</sup> Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.*

- **Mobilising** – Together making a difference.  
God uses those whose attitude is resolute, where motives are pure and whose heart is teachable. Praising Him regularly, and with other people is helpful, and powerful in tackling spiritual opposition. Praising God influences our motivation. The important thing to remember is that God's strategies don't just apply to us as individuals, but also to the whole church. It is so important to understand we are not alone, and we are not meant to be. It is usually in our nature to seek out other people for friendship and fellowship. When we do connect, we will build a network of contacts. Obviously, families spend a lot of time together naturally, but God's family (the church) crosses all boundaries and cultures, and enables development of strong, collective influence, especially when empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit.

# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

engageprayer

## ***Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 NIV***

*<sup>9</sup>Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour:*

*<sup>10</sup>If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.*

The phrase 'together, making a difference' sums it up nicely. Praising the Lord brings a change in us and stimulates a desire to work together. Corporate praise brings great joy, and it glorifies God. Let's thank God for the people we are connected to and praise Him for leading us into fellowship with fellow disciples of Jesus. We can be encouraged by breaking new ground together, exercising faith with new songs of praise to God. He inhabits the praises of His people, releasing new faith and working supernaturally. See this verse.

## ***Psalms 22:3 NIV***

*<sup>3</sup>Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.*

- **Timing** – What does God require and when?

As far as praise goes, there are no limits to what God can do when His people honour Him in praise and worship. There are seasons in life, which means there is a time to grow, a time to rest, and times to break new ground. We will develop a sense of when God releases us to go. It will be accompanied by plans, strategies and personnel. Whether it is for the family, the church, or the community, God will provide what is needed. All that is required is our hearts. Praising hearts will be enlarged ready to bear fruit. All sorts of people will be motivated and equipped. The Holy Spirit will provide the power and guidance as we go. God has prepared a way and dealt with obstacles, especially as we release our praise to Him.

## ***Psalms 31:14-15 NIV***

*<sup>14</sup>But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God." <sup>15</sup>My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

engageprayer

As we bring the first day's thoughts to a close, let's sing and give praise and thanksgiving to our God. We have seen the need for our hearts to expand and for God to release simple strategies including place, timing and people needed to break new ground. Let's be determined to release our praises to God more frequently, and see Him move in power through us.

- **Prayer of faith** – Praising God always helps brings change. Let's continue to give praise to our God throughout the day today. We have seen that, like a muscle, faith needs exercise to strengthen and reach full potential. Let's act on this powerful scripture and be bold during the day to come.

**Mark 11:23-25 NIV**

<sup>23</sup> "Truly<sup>[a]</sup> I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

**Prayer for the day** – This is an extract from the longer pre-prepared prayer you can find at the end of this Plan. We will be using two paragraphs of the full prayer per day.

- We give You thanks and praise oh Lord our God. We thank You for Saving us, for Your grace, as we take the challenge to live a Holy life. We are grateful for the authority that You have provided us by our belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of our lives.*
- We choose to fully align ourselves to Your purposes, and desire for our hearts to be enlarged to create greater capacity for you to move as we continually give You the praise that is deserved.*

**In Jesus Name. Amen**



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## Enlarging Hearts - Breaking Ground

### Day 2

**Today:** Your tent is too small!

**Prayer Focus:** Pray that our hearts and territory be enlarged, obstacles removed, and to receive more of the Holy Spirit's power.

**Worship Song of the day:** **Our God** – Chris Tomlin

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/NJpt1hSYf2o>

### Setting the scene

Today's key scripture verse from **Isaiah 54:2** and has a challenge for us. It tells us that the space we have or are currently occupying is too small! Sometimes we can become content with where we are and what we are doing. However, God does not want us to stay static and immobile, but to move forwards with Him. His desire for us is to grow and become more influential in society. For that to happen we need to be prepared to change.

**Isaiah 54:1-4 NIV**

*54:2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."*

In **Matthew 9** the disciples were asking Jesus a lot of questions. The one that concerned wineskins is a very helpful analogy for us today. As part of Jesus' response, he said this.

**Matthew 9:17 NIV**

*<sup>17</sup> Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."*

Enlargement of our hearts will require flexibility, the ability to adapt, change and yield to what God is doing in our lives. Cultivating our prayer life will aid our hearts flexibility and responsiveness.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

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“There is no growth without change, no change without fear or loss and no loss without pain.” **Rick Warren**

Change can be painful, but without it we would stagnate and if not careful, gradually become ineffectual in God’s Kingdom. This is a really challenging thought. By facing up to the possibility of this, we discover that receiving the new wine of the Holy Spirit requires the ability to contain it. A soft heart will grow, a stiff, hardened heart will be resistant and rigid. So, let’s be determined to allow God to enlarge us and by doing so, gain greater softness of heart so He can use us to bring salvation in others’ lives.

**Prayer:** *Lord, please help us to have the kind of courage and determination that Paul and Silas had as they praised and worshipped You. We ask You to help us when facing opposition, persecution and ridicule to our faith and testimony. Help us to praise You during great hardship and pressure. Help us as we yield our hearts to You. Please move in sovereign power in our lives, families and churches. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

## Enlarging Hearts:

Our hearts are continuously pumping and active, which proves that we are alive! Our beating hearts provide the blood flow that feeds life to all the vital organs of our body. This is a great illustration of what happens to us as Christians. In **Ezekiel 36:26** the prophet speaks about God giving a new heart, one of flesh instead of stone. This applies to whole churches and not just individuals. As disciples of Jesus we are part of a vibrant body of people who are part of His Church, with a heartbeat geared to serving God, and reaching our communities.

- **Mandate** – As Christians we are to be servants of God that have been transformed into the likeness of Christ. Then we can reflect the nature of God to everyone that we meet. It is challenging to live Godly lifestyles in holiness, clothed with His righteousness, and full of compassion. In Christ we have potential to grow in faith and break free from a narrow outlook of God’s Kingdom. Let’s always try to be like Jesus, who was God’s obedient Son who only did what His Father told Him to do.

**Matthew 9:36 NIV**

<sup>36</sup> *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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It is possible to 'hold back' and resist being one hundred percent for Jesus. There is a danger of retaining 'compartments' that are not fully yielded to God. Jesus gave everything, even unto death, He held nothing back! He was obedient to His Father and knew His purpose. As disciples of Jesus, Obedience and wholeheartedness are also our purpose.

In 1986 the songwriter Randy Spier produced a great praise song with lyrics based on **Acts 17:28**.

*In Him we live and move and have **our being**  
Make a joyful noise, sing unto the Lord Tell Him of your love, dance before Him  
Make a joyful noise, sing unto the Lord Tell Him of your love, hallelujah!*  
© Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Having '**our being**' in Him means there are no limits to what God can do in and through us, by use of our faith. So, be encouraged to use faith in Jesus to 'enlarge the place of your tent', in other words our hearts. Praise Him. Be glad today despite how you feel, and sing songs of adoration and thanksgiving to Him, our Saviour and Lord.

- **Standing** – Where are we in the process of enlargement?  
The measure of any enlargement comes with increased capacity. Our key scripture verse helps us to know how this can happen, lengthening the chords and strengthening the stakes. In other words, we should imagine ourselves as a tent with ropes and pegs. To maximise the height, width, depth, and volume inside the tent the support ropes need stretching out, moving the pegs to suit, then fixing them firmly to the ground in the new place. When we are in the right place the pegs themselves must be the right size and length and be placed at the right angle when hammered into the ground. All this helps create capacity to 'live, move and have our being' in Christ. God reaches out to us.

**Psalm 143:6 NIV**

*<sup>6</sup> I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land.*

- **Hearing** – Are we in a place to hear God?  
Our key verse for today underlines the need for a response to act on what is being said. Are we listening? Sometimes we need to put ourselves in a place where we can hear God. Instead. We struggle relying on our own strength with the challenges of life.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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Is God trying to get our attention? We need to regularly stop and take time to read God's word, pray and meditate on Him. Then we will be better able to hear Him speak. In faith we can cry out to God from our hearts just as Jabez did here.

## **1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV**

*<sup>10</sup> 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.*

All we can do is give God the time and attention He deserves, respond, to His leading, and the rest is up to Him.

- **Responding** – Are we ready to respond to God?

The Bible is full of challenging truth, and we would do well to understand, and respond to it. This is underlined here.

## **James 1:22-24 NIV**

*<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.*

Responding will inevitably include practical action. If God tells us to do something we'd better do it.

In the 1990's the late Elim Pastor Johnnie Barr used to say 'Doing it is doing it! Not thinking about it, talking about it, but getting on and doing it'. Simple, but profound. He was a prophet but had a Pastor's heart too. Acting on what God says is vital. In the context of enlargement, our spiritual hearts need flexibility, especially if we want to break new ground in God's Kingdom. Let's choose to yield our heart, and let God have His way in us. Let's try not to put obstacles in the way. Perhaps we need to stop giving reasons why 'we can't' change, but choose to say, 'we can'. We just need to ask the Lord to show us how and fill us with His power.

# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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- **Prayer for Enlargement** – Let's respond by praying now.  
*Lord, we allow You to enlarge our hearts even during challenging times. We are grateful for Your presence with us even when we don't necessarily feel it. We choose to obey Your word and respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to expand and grow in our hearts. Please release Your power and gives us pointers as to how to increase capacity for You through Your word (the bible). Thank You for Your love and faithfulness. **In Jesus Name. Amen.***

## Breaking Ground:

There is a phrase used by contractors when they start on a building site at a new project. It is called 'breaking ground'. The company will take instructions from the client and from designs for the new project. Often rubble and rubbish need clearing before anything else can happen. There are similarities for us as Christians. Enlarging, lengthening and strengthening tends to be preceded by heart preparation, and a conscious response to what God is saying.

### **Luke 14:28 NIV**

*28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?"*

We have looked at the importance of enlarging our hearts. Now we need to understand how to act upon what God reveals to us, and put it into practice.

- **Planning** – For us as Christians, the process of planning and mapping out our walk of discipleship needs review. We need to take stock of what God has already said. Then we need to look at equipping ourselves well, both spiritually and practically. Preparation is vital. Using the building analogy above, following the scaled plans is essential after the arrival on site. The placement of everything needs to be clear before work can start. The correct materials and resources need to be in place. As an example, let's consider church planting and outreach into communities. Planning, resourcing, vision and research is all required before taking a team to break new ground and start something new. This scripture comes to mind.

# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## **Proverbs 16:3 NIV**

<sup>3</sup> *Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.*

More particularly this passage is relevant.

## **Luke 14:28-30 NIV**

<sup>28</sup> *“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’*

To use another analogy, a farmer will always prepare, plan and resource prior sowing. Then, what is sown is reaped. The amazing thing for us as Christians is that God isn’t wanting us to just do this on our own, or in our own strength. He has provided the Holy Spirit to empower and guide us as we fulfil the purposes of God.

- **Strategy** – Looking at what tools and research are necessary. As well as planning, all the gifts and abilities need to be co-ordinated strategically. Without this enlargement, lengthening and strengthening will be haphazard and potentially wasted. So it is with the chords of our hearts. As Christians, understanding our gifts and anointings is part of the enlargement needed to see plans implemented. The Holy Spirit will guide us on the right way to use resources wisely and effectively.

## **Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 NIV**

**3** *There is **a time for everything**, and a season for every activity under the heavens:*

<sup>2</sup> *a time to be born and a time to die, **a time to plant and a time to uproot,***

<sup>3</sup> *a time to kill and a time to heal, **a time to tear down and a time to build,***

When pioneering new things, it is essential to be aware of existing needs, to prepare the team, and plan how and when. There is a need to ensure all the resources are ready when needed. We need God to show us when to move. We need to develop sensitivity and an alertness to God’s voice. We need to listen and respond. We pray that our enlarged hearts will grow and mature. Timing is paramount as we see in this amazing example during Paul’s journey’s.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## **Acts 16:7-10 NIV**

*<sup>7</sup> When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. <sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

This passage indicates the importance of listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and then acting on what He says, as Paul the Apostle did. The fruit will be greater, and God will be glorified!

- **Mobilising** – This means having willingness to actively serve God on our streets. Doing this together definitely makes a difference, but evangelism and mission can be costly for disciples of Jesus. In the Acts 16 passage above Paul the Apostle was not on his own. He had companions with him. The decision to change direction came through a dream and a very clear call. It would have been necessary for Paul to explain the reason for the change of plans. They all accepted it and went where God told them. Let's pray that God enables us, and the people of our Elim Movement to boldly go share good news. By the grace of God, we will see amazing responses that bring everlasting fruit in God's Kingdom. Hallelujah!
- **Timing** – What does God require and when?  
It has said that timing is everything. Life experiences show that sometimes we do the right things, but misfire on timing. Despite this God is gracious to us and can turn things around for His good. In the walk of discipleship, we are privileged to have the Holy Spirit to guide and prompt us. We sometimes get things wrong, but God is faithful and forgiving and can even use our mistakes. If we allow God the opportunity, He will guide us clearly. Sensitivity comes with intimacy, and we develop a closeness to God through our personal relationship with Jesus. This will better enable us to be responsive and attuned to what is the right time, place and people.

## **2 Peter 3:8-9 NIV**

*<sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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Greater spiritual sensitivity comes from seasons of prayer, reading God's word and being continually filled with the Holy Spirit. The application of His timing comes when we spend quality time in close fellowship with God's people in His church.

### **Jeremiah 17:7-8 NIV**

<sup>7</sup> *"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.*

<sup>8</sup> *They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.*

*It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.*

*It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."*

It would be good to pray to be planted where God wants us to be, bearing fruit in season, and drawing our nourishment from the source of all life, God Himself. By doing this we will grow, be enlarged, and enabled to lengthen and strengthen the bonds of fellowship with those whom we serve.

- **Prayer of faith** - Like a muscle, faith needs exercise to strengthen and reach full potential. Act on this powerful scripture and be bold today.

### **Matthew 17:20 NIV**

<sup>20</sup> *He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

**Prayer for the day** – This is an extract from a longer pre-prepared prayer you can find at the end of this Plan. We will be using two paragraphs per day. Lord.

- iii) *Lord, please help us to go and break new ground in the right places, and in Your strength, serve You and our communities in a fresh move of Your Holy Spirit. Help us to adapt when You do things in a different way from what we expect.*
- iv) *Please create a greater capacity in me as we spend time in Your presence. Help us as we move into Your purposes, and our part in them. Provide us with the resources we need, and help us to use them wisely.*

**In Jesus Name. Amen**



# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## Enlarging Hearts - Breaking Ground

### Day 3

**Today:** Lengthen & Strengthen!

**Prayer Focus:** Pray that our hearts capacity will be stretched and strengthened today. Pray for our Churches to grow in influence and effectiveness.

**Worship Song of the day:** **Strength of My Heart** – Written by Rend Collective.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/gNgFW6TdaHQ>

### Setting the scene

Yesterday we began to prepare ourselves to be enlarged in heart. Also to see the need for greater capacity for God to work His purposes out and use us in His Kingdom. Today, we again use the analogy of the tent. The process of erecting a tent involves opening the packed materials, stretching them out putting them in place. The process needs to be done properly if the structure is to survive during inclement weather. As with a tent, we often encounter storms and gales in life that test us to our limits. Part of God's plan is taking us through the processes necessary to anchor us and give us strength. Our worship song of the day has some helpful lyrics.

*Jesus, my soul is fearless For You are with us Fighting for us  
In the valley of shadows You are still with us Fighting for us,  
My Defender, You are invincible My Strong Tower, You are unshakable  
Mighty Saviour, Your love's unbreakable You're the strength of my heart*

How encouraging is this declaration – You are the strength of my heart! It's interesting that our week's key passage indicates an important priority. That is to put lengthening before strengthening. This implies that we need to extend ourselves in faith, then we will be encouraged and fortified.

**Isaiah 54:2 NIV**

*2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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The first part of the verse says, '*stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back*'. This was spoken to the Jewish people by the prophet Isaiah at that time, but it is relevant for us today. It is an instruction to stretch and widen the place of habitation for the Lord, and to do it boldly in faith not looking over our shoulders or holding back.

### ***Ephesians 3:12 NIV***

*<sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.*

Before we go any further today, let's pray for God to give us the boldness to do what His word says, and also have willingness to obey, and the grace to trust Him whatever the future holds.

**Prayer:** *We come boldly to You today Lord in response to the challenge to move forwards to lengthen and strengthen our heart so that You can use us to break new ground. Give us the courage and determination to step out in faith no-matter what we may face. Help us to move in Your sovereign power as disciples, and as a church. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

## **Enlarging Hearts:**

- **Mandate** – Today we have a challenge. The key verse comes across as a command from God, something that must happen. Challenges can be exciting but will inevitably stretch us. It could be seen as an exciting challenge, a bit like 'Your Mission, should you choose to accept it' as in the Mission Impossible films. Where it differs for us, is that nothing is impossible to our God! We seek to live in His power and strength. See **Luke 1:37**. Be encouraged today. Why not read today's key verse again aloud. Here it is in a different translation.

### ***Isaiah 54:1-6 The Message***

#### ***Spread Out! Think Big!***

**54** <sup>1-6</sup> "... *"Clear lots of ground for your tents! Make your tents large. Spread out! Think big! Use plenty of rope, drive the tent pegs deep. You're going to need lots of elbow room for your growing family.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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What a great way to put it! Why don't we take this as a clear mandate today. Take courage! Let's be determined to be positive, broaden our thinking, spread our spiritual wings. Let's get better equipped, and anchor our thoughts well by responding to God's word. Why? We have a big God. As the Vineyard kids worship song says, 'Our God is a great big God, and He holds us in His hands'. This is so simple, but yet profound.

- **Standing** – We are in a process here. It's, one that encourages enlargement of our hearts and minds. We have a decision to make. We either grow in capacity for God by lengthening our chords, or we will find the chords become a limiting factor in our walk as disciples of Jesus. God never intended that we restrict ourselves, but by faith trust Him and be expanded. He is constantly moving forwards and wants us to embrace necessary changes. This involves some pain, but heart preparation is part of advancing in God's Kingdom. Be encouraged today and take stock a bit. Let's ask ourselves if we are yielded to God's ways and commands. Are our hearts soft? Are we teachable? Are we responsive?

## **2 Timothy 2:15 NIV**

*<sup>15</sup> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

**Hearing** – It is important that we handle God's word of truth well, actively respond to it, and try not to be just be hearers of the word. Are we at a place in our Christian lives where we desire to hear God? Sometimes our hearts and minds can get stuck, and then limit Him by restricting His freedom to work His purposes in and through us. Hearing God speak to us requires a spiritual sensitivity. We need to train our thoughts as in this passage.

## **2 Corinthians 10:4-5 NIV**

*<sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

By training our minds we develop unique ways of engaging with God. Let's tune our ears carefully to God's voice today and let Him creatively release us into our potential, which can often be considered as God's will and purpose. This scripture refers to the power within our hearts.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## **Matthew 12:34 ESV**

*'.... for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks'*

Our hearts and our mouths are intrinsically linked. Learning to identify God's voice will help us in hearing from God about where lengthening and strengthening is needed. We will need responsive hearts. If we respond well it will lead to positive action. Learning how to react well is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Grace is something that grows in us as we become more sensitive and stand firm in God's ways rather than our own. This is true for us as individual disciples, but also as whole churches.

- **Responding** – Do we now feel ready to positively respond to God? What we hear will inform our thinking and speech, and often stir us into action. Responding to the right things is imperative. Allowing God to soften and expand our hearts will ensure our lives bring glory to Him. Then we can be more confident about what we say. We need to learn transparency with God and each other. We need to be without guile. Being straightforward, open and full of integrity is a great way to respond to God, and a great way to behave with each other. All this is part of God working on our characters to lengthen and strengthen us and helps us make right choices. In other words, our speech and intentions are clear to everyone.

## **Proverbs 16:1 NIV**

*16 To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue.*

## **Proverbs 18:21 NIV**

*21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Why not ask God to help us right now to respond to His instruction, and ensure we interpret what God says correctly. Let's allow God to bring confirmations throughout the day.

- **Prayer for Enlargement** – Let's respond by praying now.

*Lord, help us to hear You clearly. Help us to listen with keen ears and open hearts. Enlarge our hearts even when we are unsure and fearful. We are grateful for Your Holy Spirit's presence and want to be led by You. Today we receive the command of the word to our hearts to release the rope and allow it to be lengthened.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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*Do what You must to deepen our foundations and bring a greater level of strength and determination to serve You where You have placed us. Thank You for hearing our prayer, and for Your patience with us. **In Jesus Name. Amen.***

## Breaking Ground:

- **Planning** – The tent structure is only temporary, and is placed for a specific period. This implies the need for constant movement and relocation. The poles, ropes and pegs will have to be placed flexibly, adapting to the terrain. This is a good picture for us and our Churches. For example, military armies establish base camps and prepare what is called a 'bridgehead' which gets priority in resources. This is always done to a plan and strategy. Applying this to ourselves today, as Christians our hearts (tent) and minds (bridgehead) need lengthening and strengthening. This involves good preparation in prayer, bible study and worship. The process requires extensive planning, so it is important to do this before attempting to break ground, enter spiritual battles, and generally move forwards.

### **1 Samuel 17:47 NIV**

*<sup>47</sup> All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."*

All of us want to see the Kingdom of God advance in evangelism and church planting. Pre-prepared plans will include thorough checks on the condition of equipment, and resources. Once this is done, their use requires clarity about when and where. Only then is it right to advance.

- **Strategy** – Looking at what tools and research are necessary. Imagine planning an evangelistic tent mission into a new town or city. Usually, the tent is a large marquee. Imagine how many ropes and large the pegs are needed to hold up such a large structure; especially when high winds and torrential rain are forecast! How many of us have trudged through mud at a summer camp, when the expected sunny weather didn't materialise? None of this could happen without proper planning, organisation of people and resources. How this is done is called strategy. At these sorts of venues, the gospel message is declared. There is worship, prayer, teaching and ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit, which brings much fruit.

# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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Those of you who have seen the film 'Field of Dreams' starring Kevin Costner, will remember the prediction "if you build it, they will come". We believe that God honours our prayerful plans and preparations too!

## **2 Chronicles 7 NIV**

*When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> The priests could not enter the temple of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled it.*

What a wonderful thing to happen! Solomon followed the plans that David his father was given by God. He used them to resource and develop a building strategy. So we see that strategy informs the implementation of a plan. For us, enlarging our hearts (our tent) is an open invitation for the Holy Spirit to come, in a similar way. God spoke to Solomon in **1 Kings 9:1-9**. Its amazing what can happen. O for more of the manifest presence of God to indwell us as individuals and as a Church!

- **Mobilising** – In order to erect a new structure, more than one person is required. Doing things together enables us to make a difference in time and effectiveness. Multiple giftings operate in a co-ordinated way. Using the tent analogy again, we know there is more than one rope (chord) supporting the tent. There are central poles, ropes, and pegs that hold the overall covering. In turn, each rope is anchored in the ground as deep as necessary. This ensures the structure can withstand all that the elements throw at it.

## **Ephesians 6:13 NIV**

*<sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

In the army of God you are never alone. God's disciples are to become prepared and equipped with armour, standing side by side. This provides great protection, and opportunity to advance.

- **Timing** – Having planned, developed strategy and mobilised, what comes next? The answer is to know where and when God wants to work in and through us. Timing is the final piece of the jigsaw. All of this is called a masterplan programme.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## ***Ecclesiastes 3:3 NIV - A Time for Everything***

*3 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:*

When we start a new project, the tendency is to jump straight in without preparing properly. Sometimes people can act without considering the implications, especially the best time to start. If we are prepared to have patience and wait God's timing, the plans will be fulfilled and the strategy used will bring forth the desired fruit.

## ***Galatians 5:22-23 NIV***

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

We know God wants us to serve Him and minister to our communities. Let's now pray and ask God to help us be more aware of His timing. Let's ask Him for the patience to know where, how, with whom and when.

- **Prayer of faith** – It is so important that we make room in our hearts and minds for God to use us in the gifts that He provides. However, we also ask God for fruitfulness. If we respond and grow as God wants us to, then there will be evidence of our patience, long-suffering and the self-control to await His timing. Why not spend some time asking God to help you not to jump in too quickly, but be sensitive to His timelines?

**Prayer for the day** – This is an extract from a longer pre-prepared prayer you can find at the end of this Plan. We will be using two paragraphs per day.

- v) *Energise us again Lord, and release healing, strength, and power to live and serve You. Help us to be sensitive to when as well as what You want us to be doing in Your Kingdom.*
- vi) *We open our hearts, to Your ways and Your purposes. Consume us with the power of the Holy Spirit, and give us a deep passion for Jesus, so we can bear good fruit and be good news in our world. We want to hear You clearly. Please tell us where and when You want us to break new ground.*

***In Jesus Name. Amen***



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## Enlarging Hearts - Breaking Ground

### Day 4

**Today:** Spread Out!

**Prayer Focus:** Pray that we can reach out and expand the borders our hearts and minds today. Pray our vision is widened to God's bigger, Kingdom picture.

**Worship Song of the day:** **Open the Gates** – Written by Jess Cates / Jason Ingram / Jacob Sooter / Andi Rozier YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/-Y3h-qt6-QI>

### Setting the scene

We have now reached the halfway point in our week-long bible study and prayer time. So far we have looked at ways in which we can see an increase in our hearts capacity to respond to God and act upon what He says. We've also seen the advantages of lengthening and strengthening the dwelling places of our heart and church so that God's Kingdom can be extended in and through us. Let's look at today's key verse together.

#### **Isaiah 54:1-4 NIV**

*3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.*

With good preparation, dedication and responsiveness we will sense the promptings of the Holy Spirit. As a result we will see God do much more than we could ask or imagine!

#### **Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV**

*<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

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Without doubt God wants to increase His direct influence on our communities by using us. He has chosen to work through us, despite our weakness and inadequacy. Sometimes God will act sovereignly, moving supernaturally. He will re-organise circumstances in order to get people's attention! Mostly though, He uses us, His disciples, both as individuals and as a whole church. We become His hands, feet and voice to demonstrate and declare the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, good news to a hurting world.

Let's explore a little more of what it means when God says in **Isaiah 54:3** *For you will spread out to the right and to the left.* Before we do, let's pause and pray with an open heart. Let's ask God to give us the responsiveness to understand the importance of change. This change will involve us moving out in faith from our current safe spaces and becoming more mission minded. Let's ask God for willingness and trust wherever He wants us to serve.

**Prayer:** *Lord, we're a little unsure about the implications of stepping outside our comfort zones. We admit it is a little easier to 'stay safe' within the confines of home and church family. However, our hearts are open, and by faith we take up the challenge to spread our wings and soar into the unknown, for the sake of Your Kingdom. Give us the courage and perseverance to branch out in faith even if it is challenging. Help us move into new territory in Your power as disciples, and as a Church. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

## Enlarging Hearts:

- **Mandate** – Today's mandate is from **Isaiah 54:3**, which encourages us to spread out to the right and left. As outlined in our opening prayer, this means being willing to move out of our comfort zones into the unknown. Let's start with how we feel about this as individuals. Some may be excited at the prospect of an adventure in faith, but others will be more hesitant, and want to ask questions. It is perfectly alright to have a dialogue with God in prayer and ask questions. Sometimes He will reassure us and bring breakthrough from nervous anxiety and fear. We need to remember having God enlarge our hearts means stepping out in faith. He has given us gifts that need to be used, but He also has care, love and understanding for those who might be unsure. God has respect and honour for us, and so should we for one another as disciples in Jesus' Church. As God's family it is essential that we move out in unity and urge one another on to love and good works. We must remember that most fruit grows in clusters. Therefore, together we make a big difference



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## **Joshua 1:7 NIV**

*<sup>7</sup> “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.*

If our mandate today is to ‘spread out’ (increase our influence), we need to put this into action. We need to put legs to our faith and begin to move out as we are urged to do as part of the great commission in **Mark 16:15**. Bringing the love of God and gospel message of hope will release spiritual and practical transformation into people’s lives. This will be for the benefit of whole communities.

- **Standing** – To advance God’s Kingdom we need to respond to God’s call to enlargement. We must launch out in faith, but as we do, be aware that the enemy of our souls (the devil) will not like it. The powers of darkness will always try to find ways to hinder us and put obstacles in the way of our outreach. However, this scripture states clearly where our authority lies.

## **Colossians 2:15 NIV**

*<sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

Jesus triumphed over the devil so that now, through us as redeemed people, His influence is released into our neighbourhoods.

With Jesus’ victory over the devil assured, we can have confidence that God goes before us and is our rear-guard too. He protects us as we go, but also prepares the way for us. He does this as we lay foundations in prayer, and as we listen to His voice. He then nudges us and gives pointers through dreams, vision, prophecy. Most of all He prepares us through the reading of the bible, where the Holy Spirit breathes on scripture a rhema word of faith (inspired spoken word).

## **1 Peter 5:7-9 NIV**

*<sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

*<sup>8</sup> Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

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Be encouraged by these verses.

***Ephesians 6:13-14 NIV***

*<sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,*

In these verses we are exhorted to 'Stand' in spiritual battle three times. We are stretched as we do this. God releases us in His power and strength to bring His influence our world.

- **Hearing** – We must continue to listen to God's voice and be sensitive to the path we take. The people He wants us to share with need hope, wisdom and transformation of heart and mind. Ask God for the words that we should use. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that enables this to happen. God can only tell us precisely which way we are to go if we are actually on the move! He can't do that if we are static!

***Isaiah 30:21 NIV***

*<sup>21</sup> Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."*

As we pray and prepare, the Holy Spirit will lead us to the right people in the right place and at the right time if we sensitively listen to God's voice as we go. It's a bit like the Satnav in the car. There's no point in setting the destination if you don't then obey the instructions as to how to get there! We mustn't underestimate the importance of hearing God's instructions that may come more than once as we go. It's important to learn how to be measured, attentive and sensitive to achieve God's purposes. Hold that thought, there's more to consider.

- **Responding** – Are we ready to respond to God? We need to become increasingly attuned to how God speaks to us as we go. We serve His purposes in our generation and not our own. It is easy to make assumptions about direction, timing, and what to say. Let's ensure our hearts are open to the Holy Spirit as we respond and serve God. This includes pointers to the way we live day by day.



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## **Ephesians 3:16-19 NIV**

*<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

The process of spreading out will have its challenges. When we pray and seek God, we may feel lonely, and can get separated from the team around us. We may encounter opposition and start to feel weary. It is at these times we need to reach out to God and stay close to Him. Remember, we are not alone, the Holy Spirit is a constant guide and comforter, and His power is limitless. God's gifts are always available. It's up to us to use them.

## **2 Timothy 1:6 NIV**

*<sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

We need to have in mind the need to prepare ourselves for the long haul. God's timing is not always the same as ours. Our world seems to want everything instantly, but God's plans are not limited to our need for speed!

## **Galatians 6:9 NIV**

*<sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

- **Prayer for Enlargement** – Let's take time to respond within our hearts by praying now.

*Lord, help us to spread our wings like the eagle. We want to go where You want and see what You see. Help us to listen with a keen ear to ensure we hear you clearly. Do what You must to help us to become more sensitive to Your voice. Then we will know which way to go, the people You want us to meet, and the places and times of Your choosing. We are grateful for Your Holy Spirit's power to help us. Thank You for hearing the cry of our hearts, and for persevering with us. **In Jesus Name. Amen.***



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## Breaking Ground:

- **Planning** –To make progress with planning we need to embrace new thinking, new methods, new structures, and this is a really challenging thing to do. It has been said that preparation is everything. Doing things well potentially maximises the fruitfulness of the mission. Let's look again at our key verse for the day again.

### **Isaiah 54:3 NIV**

*3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.*

We see how important it is to stretch out and share the gospel message, taking to people the truth about Christ. We might refer to those we reach for Christ as “descendants”. We can be part of the army of God who snatch precious lives out of the snare of the enemy. God can use us to ‘dispossess’ ‘nations’. There will always be some negative spiritual forces at work in our villages, towns and cities. We can start to overcome these by bringing the presence of Jesus through Evangelism, Church Planting and spiritual warfare. It is good for us to remember just how desperate is the state of society from a spiritual point of view. This has inevitably brought a vacuum, and the only hope for our nation is Jesus, His Salvation and the power of the Holy Spirit working through us.

### **Matthew 28:18-20 NIV**

*18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

- **Strategy** –Today's key verse is helpful for other reasons. We must remember that God is for us! He has a clear strategy for us, which is to increase territory by breaking new ground. It would be good to examine the crucial pointers that help us bear fruit. Not just a one-off, but fruit that remains, year by year.

### **John 15:16 NIV**

*16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.*



# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

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The second half of the verse suggests the need to 'dispossess' and then to 'occupy'. This is far more important than we realise. We live in a world with divided communities (territories). We need to better understand spiritual warfare. The strength of the words being used in this passage indicate we are amidst a spiritual battle. For there to be deep understanding of the battle we need to have the right mind-sets, and ensure we are prepared in prayer, and dressed for battle. This is clear from well-known scriptures e.g. ***Ephesians 6.***

## ***2 Corinthians 10:4 NIV***

*<sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.*

Within our communities are some desperate groups of people who are hurting, downtrodden, and vulnerable. As a result, they are broken, and lack understanding of the normal restraints on behaviour, bringing lawlessness. Christ died for everyone, even those who have challenging behaviour! It is to these, and other similar groups of people that God has called His Church to minister out of His grace. We are called to bring truth that sets free.

## ***John 8:32 NIV***

*<sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

God's strategy to reaching out to people is us! If we are to see salvation come, people disciplined and led into changed lifestyles, God has chosen to use us to do it. God at work in us by His power will result in dispossessing the power of our enemies. The territory occupied by the powers of darkness will be reclaimed. This is our mandate because it was the mandate Jesus declared about Himself.

## ***Luke 4:18 and Isaiah 61:1 NIV***

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour....*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

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- **Mobilising** – Together making a difference.

God gives a clear call for His church to have compassion on the ‘poor and needy’ around us. We are to reach out into the community. We can go as individuals, but it is always best in teams, and in partnership with others. Jesus always sent His disciples out two by two, and missionaries of old travelled in groups. Together we make a difference, and it is a demonstration of unity.

**Psalm 133 NIV**

<sup>1</sup> *How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!*

<sup>2</sup> *It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe.*

<sup>3</sup> *It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.*

*For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.*

This is an amazing scripture because it gives us the ingredients to see the manifest presence of God. In this scripture oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. By far the best way to see the outworking of God in us, is by working together. This lengthens our reach and strengthens the bonds of love. It enables us to stretch out to those in bondage, to free those bound by chains. Unity brings commanded blessing, including the release of captives. Teams work together and have a range of different giftings. Gifts used with enlarged hearts will minister out of love and compassion. The song writer, Carl Tuttle, puts it well.

*You have broken chains that bound me, You've set this captive free,  
I will lift my voice to praise your name for all eternity  
And I worship you I give my life to You I fall down on my knees*

Jesus’ work in our lives should be shared with people around us. It is a Good News story. There are many testimonies that can be shared from within a group of people, and these stories will build faith. The gospel message is not just in words but also in deeds. Jesus promised that what He did, we would do, and even more!

**John 14:12 NIV**

<sup>12</sup> *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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What were the things that Jesus did? The scripture below lets us know. God wants to use us to see similar things happening in our communities. Nothing is impossible to our God!

## **Matthew 4:23-24 NIV**

*<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them.*

- **Timing** – It is very interesting that Jesus' Great Commission didn't include any specific timing. It simply says Go! However, we do have a clue about the level of urgency though in this passage from the Bible.

## **John 4:35 NIV**

*<sup>35</sup> Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.*

As we pray and meditate on these scriptures. Let's ask God's for confirmation on when we should do what He has told us. It seems quite clear that Jesus wasn't in favour of having unnecessary delays! Having said this, timing is very important. If preparation is everything, then quality time needs putting into the planning and strategy. This needs to be done before mobilising a team to work together on a missionary or outreach project. We also need time to impact people with vision and motivation to accomplish what we start out to do. We can be sure of one thing though.

## **2 Corinthians 6:2 NIV**

*<sup>2</sup> For he says, "In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.*

The Holy Spirit will guide us to the right timing. Often God will speak prophetically through His people in different ways. Let's be the kind of people that are open to hear Him, and respond to what He says in a timely way.

## **2 Corinthians 13:1 NKJV**

***13** This will be the third time I am coming to you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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- **Prayer of faith** – Whatever we do we need to do in faith. Building a plan and finding the right strategy to implement it needs time and resources. Let's pray that God will enable us to be alert, ready and responsive to His voice, we will follow His lead to stretch out, dispossess the enemy and release the disadvantaged. Then let's break new ground to occupy the territory that God has ordained for us to possess in our villages, towns and cities right across the United Kingdom.

**Prayer for the day** – This is an extract from a longer pre-prepared prayer you can find at the end of this Plan. We will be using two paragraphs per day.

- vii) *We welcome the opportunities to break new ground for Your Kingdom. Help us to be willing to change from old mindsets to new ones. Help us to embrace new ways of doing things, by faith. Help us to recover territory yielded to the enemy by the people You have sent us to serve.*
- viii) *Lord, use us despite our weariness, doubts, disappointments, and delays to answered prayer. Help us to adopt Your timing and have faith to press into the new. Release Your power in us to stretch out and dispossess the strongholds established by our adversary the devil.*

***In Jesus Name. Amen***



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## Enlarging Hearts - Breaking Ground

### Day 5

**Today:** Release and Occupy!

**Prayer Focus:** Pray that we can remove obstacles and occupy new territory in Gods Kingdom. Pray we receive God's favour and power to reach people in our communities.

**Worship Song of the day:** **To the Ends of the Earth** – Written by Steve Amerson / Stephen Wesley Amerson / Lowell Talmadge Jr Alexander

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/aIESFjd2ntI>

### Setting the scene

On Day 4 we explored some aspects of the need for enlarging and breaking new ground, and what it takes to make a difference in society. Today we take things further and examine the spiritual intelligence required to see God move supernaturally in our communities. This requires research, prayer, intercession and spiritual mapping. It is essential to attune ourselves into God's strategic plans for geographical areas. We need to know the spiritual and territorial forces at work, and then align ourselves with God's sovereign purposes, both individually and as churches. This might be new thinking for some, but our theme encourages new thinking. Our hearts need to be open to taking steps of faith to achieve spiritual and practical breakthrough. Let's begin with our key scripture for today.

**Isaiah 54:1-4 NIV**

*3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.*

To release(dispossess) and occupy (settle) in a particular territory, advanced research is helpful. Intercessors pray and stand in the gap. They listen to what God is saying, test it with scripture, research demographics and look for spiritual pointers on how things apply to the local situation in our communities.



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## **Isaiah 62:6-7 NIV**

*<sup>6</sup> I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, <sup>7</sup> and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.*

As we prepare our hearts now, let's explore some new and challenging strategies. Why not ask God for an open heart and open mind to what the Holy Spirit might want to reveal about our lives, Church and community.

**Prayer:** *We open our heart to You afresh today, Lord. We are a little prepared to step into new things and work outside our comfort zones but feel nervous about doing so. Please help us as we take up the challenge to try new things and walk into the unknown, for the sake of Your Kingdom. Once again, give us the courage and perseverance to branch out in faith, even if it is challenging. Help us watch and pray. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear what Your Holy Spirit is saying as we step into new territory in Your power. We do this as Your disciples, and as a Church. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

## **Enlarging Hearts:**

- **Mandate** – God intends to move in villages, towns or cities. He will often stir and give insight to His people when they pray and worship. He brings things to our attention, and has a strategy of working in His disciples, preparing and refining them. He imparts vision, and a deep desire in our hearts. As far as God is concerned, it's all about people. The title of a book written by a Christian youth worker named George Burton comes to mind. He worked in a tough East End of London community. The title was "People matter more than things". It's a good reminder of an important truth.

## **1 Timothy 2:1-4 NIV**

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, <sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

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The dictionary meaning of 'Mandate' is: "an official order or commission to do something" or "and an order to seek the release of prisoners". God has given us a mandate, or 'order'. He wants us to be fully released into it, and for us to encourage others too. This is the mandate.

### **Isaiah 61:1 NIV**

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,*

This bible prophecy was read out by Jesus Himself in **Luke 4:18-19**. This was Jesus' mandate and is ours too. This scripture helps us to know that Christ in us is Good News to the people we meet.

### **Colossians 1:27 NIV**

*<sup>27</sup> To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

As we have considered previously, the anointing of God is released in us, and is the strength needed to fulfil His calling. His strength and not our own. It is good to remember, if we operate in the 'flesh' (our own strength) we will only reap flesh. This means what we do will only last with effort. If we do things in God's strength (supernaturally) it will have an everlasting effect on people's lives. Developing a consistent prayer life and close relationship with Jesus will sustain us, even in very tough circumstances.

- **Standing** – The process of enlargement always starts in our hearts and minds. What is the condition of our heart before God today? Let's spend a few moments consider things that may affect our ability to be spiritually enlarged and changed. Remember this is a journey of faith. It is about what God wants to do in and through us as His disciples. Are we in a good place to be enlarged and see real spiritual breakthrough?

### **Ezekiel 22:30 NIV**

*<sup>30</sup> "I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

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It can sometimes require real commitment to serve God. We are His chosen instruments, and He doesn't have anyone else. It is incumbent on us to be available and persevere. God knows what He is doing.

### **1 Corinthians 1:27 NIV**

*<sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.*

Despite our weariness and vulnerability, God uses us. We are God' messengers to bring the promise of hope, truth and salvation, but are we ready, and are our hearts right before Him? Are we willing to give God permission to enlarge and change us from the inside out? God has the means to help us.

### **Ezekiel 36:26 NIV**

*<sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

The condition of our heart always influences our availability. Let's choose to fully engage with God's plans. If we do, He will use us to bring about the strategic changes that are part of His transformational strategy for our villages, towns and cities. God wants to use us in our day-to-day life, particularly in our home neighbourhood, when out shopping, at the school gate, at work, and when we socialise with others. People will see and be affected by the evidence of God's work in our hearts. They will begin to ask us what is it that is different about you. Then we have an opportunity to share our testimony.

### **1 Peter 3:15 NIV**

*<sup>15</sup> But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

The strong social and media influences in our society are trying to mould our thinking. However, we need to be prepared to resist things that are unhelpful and potentially lead us to compromises. God at work in us should enable the opposite to happen. It is essential that we are prepared to 'stand up and be counted' as Christ's disciples.

### **John 16:33 NIV**

*<sup>33</sup> "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

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- **Hearing** – To hear God, we need to prepare well.

As disciples of Jesus, we need to be prepared to repent when necessary and address hindrances in our relationship with Him. We need regular worship, prayer and the reading of God's word of truth. By doing this faithfully and regularly we will find our minds and hearts will be more attuned to God. The Holy Spirit will reveal His purposes and mandate for that day and beyond.

### **James 4:8 NIV**

*<sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

Let's choose to come before Him in humility with our worship. If we do so we honour God and we reflect more of His character, holiness and purity.

### **Psalms 96:9-10 NIV**

*<sup>9</sup> Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. <sup>10</sup> Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.*

When we worship God in holiness and truth, our hearts are released from unhelpful ties and obstructions. We are free to declare that He reigns, and the power of demonic territorial strongholds will be broken in us, and within communities.

- **Responding** – When we are willing to respond to the things God says, there is an amazing effect on us and the people around us! When we allow God to enlarge us, He gives us spiritual freedom. The level of our response to God determines the level of what He can do in the people and communities around us. We need to be conduits of His power and not bottlenecks. This implies a need to live in holiness and be sanctified people. In other words, set apart for Jesus.

### **Acts 2:37-38 NIV**

*<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"*

*<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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The Holy Spirit releases in us all kinds of giftings and creative expressions. There are an enormous variety of different spiritual tools available to extend His Kingdom that lead to enlargement and transformation. Increased sensitivity to the Holy Spirit will potentially bring prophetic insight about spiritual forces that are working in large areas of our society. Words of knowledge and discerning of spirits are two of the gifts that are available. Sometimes revelation is given to us about influences around geographical places. We become attuned to territorial influences that directly affect people. It is so encouraging when this happens. What sometimes seems negative can become a catalyst, leading to a marked change for whole communities. By moving together in prayer, worship and the prophetic realm, strategies emerge that result in salvation, healing and freedom by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul the Apostles ministry in Ephesus is an example of this.

### **Acts 19:16-20 NIV**

*16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.*

*17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. 18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. 19 A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.[a] 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.*

Today let's ask God to enlarge us, bring fresh revelation, and release God's influence into our society.

Today's key verse says.

**Isaiah 54:3 NIV** *3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will **dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.***



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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- **Prayer for Enlargement** – Let's prepare our hearts to pray now that God may enlarge our hearts and minds. Pray for a strategic breakthrough in dealing with strongholds in our communities.

*Lord, help us recognise our need for renewed thinking and enlarged hearts. We want to be used by You wherever You want us. Help us to be more attentive to You and allow an expansion of thinking and release the creativity of gifting. Do what You must to help us to move forwards in faith. Bring us revelation and strategy to dispossess the enemy at work in people's lives. Lead us to the people You want us to meet, in the places and times of Your choosing. We are grateful for the power of the Holy Spirit. Please help us direct our energies into the right areas. Lord, please hear the cry of our hearts, and thank You for Your salvation. **In Jesus Name. Amen.***

## Breaking Ground:

- **Planning** – As Christians we have times of battle and challenge. We overcome personal battles, but as Churches we sometimes encounter strategic battles for territory. How we act on these challenges in our communities needs wisdom and tact.

**St. Augustine of Hippo** said this around AD 400.

*"We do not seek peace in order to be at war, but we go to war that we may have peace. Be peaceful, therefore, in warring, so that you may vanquish those whom you war against, and bring them to the prosperity of peace."*

When considering spiritual warfare, we would do well to understand that people themselves are not the enemy. The scriptures put it well here.

### **Ephesians 6:12 NIV**

*12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

Our main theme today is release and occupy. This implies a battle needs to be fought to bring release and to enter new territory. Before we take on battles within our communities, we need to address the battles within ourselves. We all face battles within our hearts and minds from time to time.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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Overcoming needs the development of a close relationship with God. This will bring an awareness of His holiness, which will influence our thinking and lifestyle. We need to be equipped for battle.

***Ephesians 6:10-11 NIV***

*10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

We need equipping individually (prayer, worship and reading scripture), then we can join the rest of the army to fight wider battles. The territorial forces of spiritual darkness are best tackled by groups of like-minded Christians who have mapped out and carefully planned their strategy. Community problems are best addressed by Churches working together in unity. Faith rises when we are with other believers. Combining all the spiritual giftings brings greater protection. The by-product of this will be enlargement of territory and influence in our communities.

- **Strategy** – A significant part of God's strategy for dispossessing the powers of darkness and regaining influence in society is the direct role of the Church. The Church is meant to fulfil its primary mission and 'go'.

***Mark 16:15 NIV***

*<sup>15</sup> He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*

To 'go' means preaching the Gospel in the power and love of God. Going will result in occupying new territory and putting roots down. In context this next scripture means to 'marry the land'.

***Isaiah 62:4 NIV***

*<sup>4</sup> No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord will take delight in you, and your land will be married.*

In other words, God's people make a firm commitment. This enables us to take territory, just as Joshua and the children of Israel did when they crossed the Jordan River to go into 'Canaan's Land'. See **Joshua 1**. Effectively all this points to the Church of Jesus having a missionary heart. God's purpose for His Church includes spiritual strategies to overcome the 'God of this world' See **2 Corinthians 4:4**.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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Jesus has already overcome because He told us.

**John 16:33 NIV**

<sup>33</sup> "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Our role in God's Kingdom is to be in the vanguard of overcoming the world. Everything that Jesus did by the power of God and more, is available to us.

**John 14:12 NIV**

<sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

God wants to liberate people who are bound in sin. Then to use us to dispossess the powers of darkness. This is possible through the blood of Jesus and by the word of our testimony. We occupy the land of our calling, praying, worshipping, prophesying and meeting felt needs in love. We have been washed, cleansed and sanctified to be more like Jesus. By faith we serve Him in the power of the Holy Spirit. Why not pray right now, putting these thoughts into your own words, giving thanks to God for all He is doing in us, and for your family, Church and community.

- **Mobilising** – There are no instant solutions to the challenges of our world. God has given us a clear plan and strategy for overcoming. It is all about Jesus, and by what He has done. It is through what He wants to do in and through us. We need to implement His plan, His way, with the people God has joined us with, and at the time of His choosing. Thankfully we are not alone, and as part of the Church, together we will make a difference.

The following scripture describes a great example of a God given burden and vision. It shows its implementation with God's people working together, despite frequent false accusation, diversionary tactics and active opposition.

**Nehemiah 1:3-4 NIV**

<sup>3</sup> They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." <sup>4</sup> When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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When Nehemiah presented the rebuilding proposal to King Artaxerxes, the king gave him time and resources. He also presented his plan and strategy to the Jewish tribal Elders, they agreed to the rebuild. Whilst they made progress we read.

### **Nehemiah 4:6 NIV**

*<sup>6</sup> So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.*

God used Nehemiah to impart vision and strategy. He also provided resources, time and determination, resulting in a Jerusalem being rebuilt and inhabited again. We can learn from this. It as a template for God to breakthrough in our own communities. Let's spend some time meditating on this and see what God may be saying to us today.

- **Timing** – It is vital to understand God's timing. We saw on Day 2 of our plan when we looked at **Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 NIV** *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.*

Other scriptures identify what, and when we need to serve God in our generation.

### **2 Corinthians 6:2 NIV**

*<sup>2</sup> For he says, "In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you."  
I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.*

In this scripture there is urgency for salvation. It is here and now. In the lead up to a major outreach initiative there is a need for careful preparation, and this takes time. We need to count the cost before starting. By doing so we stand a better chance of finishing what we start.

### **Luke 14:28 ESV**

*For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?*

Also, we again need to take note of the words of Jesus Himself.

### **Matthew 16:24 NKJV**

*<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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- **Prayer of faith** – Let's take a few moments to pause and pray. Every one of us will have experienced challenges. Use of our faith is like a muscle, it needs exercise, our hearts need expanding. Preparation is required to break new ground in us in order to reach our full potential in Christ's plan. So now let us pray into this.

**Prayer for the day** – This is an extract from a longer pre-prepared prayer you can find at the end of this Plan. We will be using two paragraphs per day.

- ix) *Lord, we pray for Your covering and protection as we prepare our hearts. Please use us to dispossess the camp of the enemy from all the strongholds put in our way. Help us as we open our hearts. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit afresh. Help us to retain a deep passion to serve You and help us to directed it in the right places. Please release healing and renewed energy to live, serve You and see real breakthrough today.*
- x) *Lord, come with Your Holy presence as we choose to put down roots where You have planted us. We long for a demonstration of Your glory and goodness. Use us to affect the world in which we live. We want to see people set free and receive Your salvation. Release us and use us to see release in others, by Your mighty power. Touch the lost and desperate and bring them into an experience of salvation.*

***In Jesus Name. Amen***



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## Enlarging Hearts - Breaking Ground

### Day 6

**Today:** No Fear, No Shame!

**Prayer Focus:** Pray that we can overcome fear and be fully released from all condemnation and shame, for us, and those we serve in our communities.

**Worship Song of the day:** **Break Every Chain** – Written by Reagan William Andrew  
YouTube Link: [https://youtu.be/OXwbVCI\\_mkw](https://youtu.be/OXwbVCI_mkw)

### Setting the scene

In our backgrounds there are likely to be traumatic experiences that have affected us. We are not immune to life's challenges, and if it happens to us Christians, it can happen to anyone. Jesus has released compassion and understanding in His Church. It is an opportunity for us reach people and point them to where they can get eternal freedom and liberty. We handle shock, rejection and the unexpected in different ways. We respond emotionally or rationally depending on our personalities. Surprise or shock can be expressed outwardly, or suppressed internally. Experiences vary in our world, which is full of people who have fled from war, or political oppression. People experience unbearable pain causing fear, and who need to escape from the perpetrators of this pain. There are so many examples in life. Whatever the experience, God is fully aware. In Jesus Christ we can all have hope and can find a place of refuge. Despite the pain we may feel, He has provided a way to be comforted, healed and set free. Today we look at how we can deal with fear and shame. Our key verse is an indication of God's provision.

#### **Isaiah 54:1-4 NIV**

*4 "Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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The prophet Isaiah declared to the whole nation of Israel the message that God gave him. Today the Church of Jesus Christ is commissioned to declare the works of God, especially the way of salvation in Him. In Days 4 and 5 of this Bible/Prayer plan we have looked at **Isaiah 61**. It is a clear empowering passage, and declaration of God's intent for us. There is a very good reason for this. Jesus embraced this as part of His mission whilst on earth. In Luke's Gospel we are told that Jesus has fasted and prayed forty days, was tempted by the devil and resisted, then started ministering in Galilee.

### **Luke 4:16-19 NIV**

*<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:*

*<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."*

Jesus came to set us free from everything that binds and hinders us, and that includes those in our communities. There are so many people who suffer hardship, pain and anguish. As Christians, we have a testimony to tell of what Jesus has done. Our personal, on-going stories are powerful. They demonstrate Jesus at work today. People can see and hear what He has done in the past, but also what He is doing now.

### **Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV**

*<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Let's pause for a few moments. Thank God for illuminating our hearts and minds. Remember all He has done and embrace the freedom and liberty that He offers to all of us.

### **John 8:36 NIV**

*<sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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**Prayer:** Lord, we ask You to help us enter fully into Your freedom. Help us to point people we know to You. Thank You for Your promise to set us free, and so we ask You to liberate us from everything that would bind us and cause fear. We also ask You to give breakthrough to all those we love and are concerned about. By faith we declare our freedom in Christ. Lord, please give us the courage and perseverance to reach out to You in faith, believing the promise of Your word even when facing uncomfortable and anxious times. Give us breakthrough and enlarge our hearts and minds to see things from Your perspective and not just our own. We ask all these things. **In Jesus Name. Amen.**

## Enlarging Hearts:

- **Mandate** – Today's mandate to pray about is simple. It is to be free from fear and shame. What better way to be set free than to read and declare aloud some Bible verses underlining the freedom and authority that there is in Jesus.

### **1 John 4:18 NIV**

*<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

The word 'drive' means to 'propel or carry along by force in a specified direction'. Applying this to the verse above means that the love of God is powerful enough to release us from fear! We are imperfect people, but despite that, the power of God's love is at work in us. This kind of love 'drives out' all fear. Our outward declaration of this love brings freedom!

The power of God's love doesn't just come to 'aid' us, but to 'deliver' us.

### **Psalms 107:6 NIV**

*<sup>6</sup> Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.*

Sometimes it is difficult to admit we are afraid, and we don't want to show ourselves up, look weak, or to fail in some way. This scripture is helpful. Our trust in God is essential if we are to be delivered from distress.

### **Proverbs 29:25 NIV**

*<sup>25</sup> Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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The last part of this verse is key, '*whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe*'. By receiving God's love and letting it flow through us, our hearts are enlarged and our capacity to resist fear increases. Let's pray that we make the most of this love and see it as God's provision not just for us, but through us towards others.

- **Standing** – By embracing the power of God, we will discover that His love is limitless, and we stand a better chance of experiencing breakthrough. This love will free us from chains of fear, anxiety and panic that can grip us. This experience can cause us to freeze emotionally and impair our decision making. God's love will provide strength to stand firm against forces that try to burden or yoke us. Nobody is immune to this, so let's declare God's word over our lives right now. When we've done that, declare it over the life of someone you are concerned about?

### ***Galatians 5:1 NIV***

*5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

Russell Kelso Carter (1849 – 1928) wrote a famous Hymn, and verse two has helpful lyrics that have encouraged generations of Christians, declaring the need to stand firm and break free from fear.

*Standing on the promises that cannot fail.  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail, Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God, my Saviour;  
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.*

Again, the contemporary worship song below has lyrics declaring that Jesus takes away our shame. It's called 'Graves into Gardens' by Brandon Lake and Elevation Worship

*You turn mourning to dancing; You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory; You're the only one who can  
Oh, there's nothing better than You; There's nothing better than You  
Lord, there's nothing; Nothing is better than You*

Hallelujah! Jesus has done it all. He has broken chains and set captives free!



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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- **Hearing** – We need to hear God speaking very clearly. We need direction, comfort, clarity, reassurance, and understanding. The Bible tells us about several angelic visitations. They all have the same simple message, do not to fear! Each passage declares what God was about to do, something really amazing.

To Zechariah before the birth of John the Baptist:

**Luke 1:11-13 NIV**

*<sup>11</sup> Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.*

To Mary before the conception of Jesus:

**Luke 1:29-31 NIV**

*<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.*

To Shepherds in the fields heralding the birth of Jesus:

**Luke 2:10 NIV**

*<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.*

To Joseph, at the conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit:

**Matthew 1:20 NIV**

*<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

It's the same message each time, do not fear! We learn something crucial, that God is in control! By receiving and responding to such a message, we can be at peace, and need not be anxious. If we find peace, then we can point others to the source of peace. That is Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace. He can alleviate all their fears. He is our Saviour, healer, deliverer and soon coming King!

# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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- **Responding** – For Mary and Joseph facing the conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit, the cultural stigma and personal shock and trauma would have been much deeper than we can imagine. The Jewish religious and traditional family norms would have meant ostracisation, marginalisation, rejection and many other shocking experiences. Like so many in our communities, Jesus took all our shame, fear and rejection on the cross. We can be completely released from all of this. By knowing Jesus ourselves, and introducing others to Him and the gospel message, we can be completely set free, and lead others to that freedom.

**Romans 8:1-2 NIV**

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you<sup>[a]</sup> free from the law of sin and death.*

The power of bondages, fear and shame can be broken in the Name of Jesus. He has already overcome, and by the power of the Holy Spirit we can be set free. Hallelujah!

**Romans 10:11 NIV**

<sup>11</sup> *As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."*

- **Prayer for Enlargement** – Pause now and express thanks to Jesus for being willing to provide us with a way out of fear and shame. Let's pray at the start of the day.

*Lord, we are so grateful that You were willing to go to the cross, shed Your blood, and take all our fear and shame on the cross. We say thank You. Please help us to release every negative thought, emotion, trauma and memory of pain to You. Renew our minds so that we are free and unhindered to go where You want us to. Do what You must in us to help us to become more sensitive to Your voice. We are grateful for Your Holy Spirit's power to aid us in standing against negative words and accusations. Thank You for hearing the cry of our hearts, for persevering with us and setting us free. **In Jesus Name. Amen.***

# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## Breaking Ground:

- **Planning** – In the first half of our plan today we looked at personal challenges, including fear and shame. Now let's think about our society. What about the people in our communities who suffer with fear and shame? What's the plan for reaching out to them and helping them find freedom and liberty?

### **1 Timothy 2:1-4 NIV**

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—<sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.<sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Saviour,<sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

God is interested in everyone. Therefore, we should be also. This includes those who struggle with real fear and debilitating shame. The recent pandemic has resulted in many people experiencing anxiety and mental health challenges. Huge numbers of people of all ages have struggled with these emotions. What can we do as Christians, and as Churches? There are no easy answers, but God gives us some pointers in scripture. In planning and breaking ground to address these challenges. Let's see transformation start here today.

### **Romans 12:1-2 NIV**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.<sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

This is a sensitive area. Our response needs strong influence from the power of God's love. Then a message of hope can be shared. The condition of our heart is crucial to our response. Compassion, understanding, sensitivity and wisdom come when we spend time in prayer, worship and being guided by God's word. On Day 5 this week we looked this particular scripture, which challenges the attitude of heart.

### **Ezekiel 36:26 NIV**

*<sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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Let's pause and pray right now. Ask God to soften our hearts. Consider God's plan for those who are fearful, anxious and full of shame. Let's look at some potential strategies where God can release His anointing upon us. He wants to bring His sovereign intervention, which includes healing and freedom, all of which is part of His Salvation.

- **Strategy** – Every community has damaged and hurting people. It's amazing how God uses broken, and restored people like us to share the power of His love. Part of this strategy is for us to pray, intercede, research, and liaise with likeminded groups. Prayer is foundational. Often it results in God connecting us with people who care, and who can provide practical help and support for those who suffer fear and shame. It is important to be where God wants us, and where we will be most fruitful. The Holy Spirit will draw us close to God, who will impart His strategy for alleviating shame and fear by the power of His love.

### **Acts 4:33-35 NIV**

*<sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all <sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.*

How does God want us to reach people? What is His specific plan for our community? What does it look like for us? It all starts in our hearts. Great understanding and wisdom will come as we spend time in His presence. The love of God will pour out as we find greater depths of compassion. We have a great example in Jesus seen here.

### **Matthew 9:36 NIV**

*<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

In this verse, the word harassment is significant. People genuinely feel fear and shame. For them it can be like someone chasing them and not leaving them alone. People who suffer need to experience respect, be honoured, be offered confidentiality, and be loved with great understanding.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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God's desire is for everyone to be free, healed and restored. Let's ask God to help us to be compassionate as we reach out to people in our neighbourhoods and thereby break new ground. The songwriter Carl Tuttle wrote this verse in his song back in 1982.

*You have broken chains that bound me You have set this captive free  
I will lift my voice to praise Your name for all eternity  
And I worship You I give my life to You I fall down on my knees and worship You*

- **Mobilising** – There are substantial emotional and spiritual needs around us. God's people can create safe havens within communities. Every Church congregation will have creative ways of reaching out. Needs affect all ages, backgrounds and sectors of our diverse communities. Sometimes we hear of anti-social behaviour and see evidence of lawlessness. This can create panic, agitation, distress and worry. Perhaps we know of this sort of thing where we live? The power of the Holy Spirit can bring about significant change and bring peace. As the Church prays, the power of God comes bring the authority of God and the spiritual insight to break spiritual strongholds.

**Isaiah 25:11 NKJV**

*<sup>11</sup> And He will spread out His hands in their midst As a swimmer reaches out to swim,  
And He will bring down their pride Together with the trickery of their hands.*

Begin to pray now. Ask God to release divine strategy to bring His presence to our local streets. Ask God for salvation and freedom to bring transformation to individuals, and whole communities by the power of the Holy Spirit. Declare liberty and release for captives.

The spoken word can be used to bring release or to bind. What is put into the airwaves verbally can have a profound effect on people. Negative declarations can stigmatise people, causing shame and reproach. As God's people we must seek to do the opposite. The word of God is clear about the power of words.

**Proverbs 18:21 NIV**

*<sup>21</sup> The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

As the people of God we need to use our words wisely. We need to be full of compassion, wisdom and discernment, and ensure we sow our words well. If we do, we will reap a good harvest amongst people and communities.



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7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## **Galatians 6:7-9 NIV**

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup> Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

- **Timing** – The method of implementation of vision and strategy varies. Motivation should be the love and compassion of God. Are we prepared to set aside time and make God's plans our priority? Assuming there is a clear God-given vision, we need to align ourselves with it. Ask God to let make it clear when is the right time to move forwards and serve the vision. Then go, as the Holy Spirit leads.

## **Jeremiah 6:16 NIV**

<sup>16</sup> This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'"

Let's ask God to sensitise our hearts to respond and obey. Let's be fully yielded to Him so that we don't become stubborn, as was the case with the people of Israel spoken of in this verse.

- **Prayer of faith** – There have been some challenges in today's plan. Let's be determined to respond to God's promptings and challenges in a positive way, and not resist and serve our own interests.

## **Philippians 2:3-4 NIV**

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

To overcome fear and shame we need to exercise faith and be healed, restored and strengthened. This will enable us to experience freedom and reach our full potential. Let's use faith now as we pray.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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**Prayer for the day** – This is an extract from a longer pre-prepared prayer you can find at the end of this Plan. We will be using two paragraphs per day.

- xi) *Lord will You please move our hearts with compassion just like Jesus. Help us to grow in sensitivity as we speak to those suffering with fear, anxiety and shame. Help us share the good news through practical acts of love and by pioneering new church expressions of love within our communities.*
- xii) *In everything we do, we want You to be glorified. Will You fill us again with Your power so that we can step out in faith and see You set captives free? We give You thanks for those who have found the freedom of Salvation in You alone. Please continue to bring healing, restoration and freedom to those who need it, and use us to do so. Be glorified in all we are, and all we do in Your Name.*

***In Jesus Name. Amen***



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

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## Enlarging Hearts - Breaking Ground

### Day 7

**Today:** Promise of Salvation!

**Prayer Focus:** Pray that we experience the full freedom, enlargement that comes from Salvation in Jesus. Pray for power and anointing to share the good news of the gospel, breaking new ground and enlarging territory as we go.

**Worship Song of the day:** **Forever** – Written by Kari Jobe

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/huFra1mnIVE>

### Setting the scene

Over the last six days we have had the opportunity to look at **Isaiah 54:1-4** in depth. Our prayer is that it has stimulated and expanded our hearts and minds. God wants to move in and through us, and His wider Church. We have looked at how imperative it is to reach out and share what God has done, is doing, and wants to do. His desire is to release life giving power in and through us, His disciples. We have considered some of the processes God uses to enlarge and stimulate faith in us, which results in breaking new ground and extending His Kingdom. Today we will remind ourselves of some of the key truths that encourage us to change and see a fresh move of God in us, and our communities. Enlarging hearts and breaking new ground requires the power of God, not self-effort. If we yield ourselves to God, then nothing is impossible to Him.

**Chris Tomlin** wrote a worship song called '**Our God**'. Its words declare that nothing stands in God's way.

*Our God is greater, Our God is stronger, God, You are higher than any other  
Our God is Healer, Awesome in power, Our God, Our God.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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God's word has truth that will help us expand our capacity and understanding of Him and His ways.

**Luke 1:37 NKJV**

*<sup>37</sup> For with God nothing will be impossible."*

On this final day of our Bible and Prayer Plan, let's be determined to get the most out of all that we have considered during the week.

**Galatians 5:1 NKJV**

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*

Before we continue, let's pray, worship and spend some time drawing close to God in quietness and confidence, with a deep desire to change and be more like Jesus. Let's ask God that we may live lives that reflect His Glory by the way we live. You might want to have some worship playing in the background, or just be quiet.

**Prayer:** *Lord, we come boldly into Your presence and ask You to help us put into practice all that we have read and prayed during this week. We thank You for helping us to gain understanding about the need for change. We therefore commit ourselves to enter fully into the freedom You have sacrificially bought for us. Please remove any obstacles or hindrances trying to stop us from having our hearts enlarged. By faith we declare our freedom in Christ once again. We choose to break new ground by stepping out in faith and moving forwards in boldness, knowing You are always there for us. We long for real breakthrough. Renew our minds so we can see things from Your perspective and not just our own. Help us find our place in the body of Christ and work together with others to grow and become more 'Mission Hearted'. We declare a loosening of spiritual shackles and chains that would try to restrict us.*

**In Jesus Name. Amen.**



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## Enlarging Hearts:

- **Mandate** – On each of the last six days we have identified a specific mandate for the day (a commission to do something), linking with our theme ‘Enlarging Hearts; Breaking Ground. Our main scripture in **Isaiah 54:1-4** has been foundational, and together we have found reasons:
  - To praise God
  - To break from a narrow outlook of God’s Kingdom
  - To think big, spread out, get resourced, and anchor things well.
  - To be willing to move out of our comfort zones and into the unknown, by faith.
  - To let Jesus release us from restraints and let Him fully occupy our hearts.
  - To refuse fear, and be set free from guilt and shame in Jesus Name

In summary, we might say that in Jesus, we have found release. This means being free from reproachment, fear and shame. In Jesus we can be unhindered, loosed from chains that bind us. We can grow, be empowered and be filled with increased amounts of faith. The release Jesus has given means we can be filled with His compassion and become increasingly mission hearted.

The Old and New Testaments of the Bible give us exhortations to fulfil God’s purpose in our generation. The Old Testament scripture declares.

### **1 Chronicles 16:23-24 NKJV**

*<sup>23</sup> Sing to the Lord, all the earth; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. <sup>24</sup> Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.*

And then the New Testament sets out God’s instruction and promises.

### **Acts 13:47 NKJV**

*<sup>47</sup> For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’*

Let’s thank God for Jesus. It is through Him we can all experience freedom from reproachment, fear and shame. We can be faith filled, full of compassion and mission hearted.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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- **Standing** – During the week we have established that standing firm in our faith is an essential thing to do. We need to choose to do this. We also need determination not to let go of God and build resilience. We need to learn to hold position and then advance in His strength. In the last few days, we have also established that:
  - Standing firm gives us opportunity to expand our faith.
  - Increased capacity requires flexibility, allowing the relocation of tent pegs and stretching the ropes to new positions.
  - We have a choice, to relocate or get stuck. We need to yield and change.
  - The enemy of our souls will try to restrict us and stop enlargement.
  - Adopting the world's philosophy can hinder faith and expansion, leading to unbelief.
  - Having more of God's power helps us recognise and resist error and deception.

Now let's ask ourselves where are we in the process of enlargement? Let's be determined to stand firm.

*Isaiah 12:2 NIV*

*2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation."*

**Tertullian** was an early Christian writer from Carthage in Africa. He was known for standing against heresies of the day and promoting the truth. He said this.

*"Prayer cleanses from sin, drives away temptations, stamps out persecutions, comforts the fainthearted, gives new strength to the courageous, brings travellers safely home, calms the waves, confounds robbers, feeds the poor, overrules the rich, lifts up the fallen, supports those who are falling, sustains those who stand firm."*

**Tertullian**

Today let's choose like Tertullian, to be more determined than ever to stand firm in the Christian faith. Let's resist being deceived and hold firmly to God's truth. Ask God for help not to be deflected away from His ways. Earnestly pray for God to release His discernment, grace, and guidance. Choose to give God scope to enlarge our hearts and use us more than ever.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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- **Hearing** – There is only one way to hear, and that is to listen. It seems a bit obvious. Our world is full of work, activity and distractions of all kinds. In the last few days, we have considered the need to stop, think, and give God the time He deserves. Also, we hear God through prayer, the scriptures, in dreams and visions, prophecy and through what God's people share with each other in Church and informal group settings.

The book of Revelation outlines in detail the heart of God for His Church. The prophecy especially outlines His concern for the seven Churches in Asia. As we read, it becomes a very sober warning to the Churches. It's also an amazing pointer to transformation, if we listen carefully to what is being said. Most of the prophecy to the seven Churches includes the following.

### **Revelation 2:7 NIV**

*<sup>7</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches...*

God expects us to hear, but He can't force us. He gave us free will and He hasn't taken it back! To hear properly we need to listen well. Let's decide to give our full attention to God. Sometimes when He wants us to hear Him, He will influence our circumstances to get our attention! We show God our faithfulness as disciples by creating the space in our busy schedules and activities in which to listen/hear Him. We need to be attentive to the ways God speaks to us and not jump to conclusions about the voice He uses.

In this Old Testament story Eli was discipling Samuel, who became God's prophet to the Jewish people. During this time of discipling, he learned about God's word, His ways, and how to hear His voice.

### **1 Samuel 3:6 NIV**

*<sup>6</sup>Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."*

*"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."*

Eventually Eli realised it was God speaking and he encouraged young Samuel to respond accordingly.

# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## **1 Samuel 3:8-10 NIV**

<sup>8</sup> A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

In a noisy, busy world it would be good for us all to be alert, and recognise God's voice just as Samuel did.

- **Responding** – We listen to people speaking but learning to hear what's said is crucial. Hearing well leads to responding well. Surely God needs to get our priority? This is really key if we are to see enlargement of our hearts. Actions are evidence of listening properly. Are we ready to respond to God's voice? Sometimes we listen and hear but don't think what is said applies to us! Perhaps we should ask God to help us be more responsive.

## **James 1:22 Amplified Bible**

<sup>22</sup> But prove yourselves doers of the word [actively and continually obeying God's precepts], and not merely listeners [who hear the word but fail to internalize its meaning], deluding yourselves [by unsound reasoning contrary to the truth].

The Amplified version of this verse helps us to 'unpack' it. Some of the words used help us to understand the internal process we go through to hear and respond. Ultimately, actions speak louder than words. We need to learn how to interpret what God says and then put it into practice. By doing so, we are more likely to see our hearts enlarged by God, and the world transformed as a result. A large part of our response will be governed by our motivation. Here is what Jesus said about this.

## **John 13:34-35 Amplified Bible**

<sup>34</sup> I am giving you a new commandment, that you [a]love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love and unselfish concern for one another."

# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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We need to remember that people's perceptions of us will always be shaped by what we do as well as what we say. Alongside enlargement of our hearts comes the need to alter our attitudes and understand the purpose of change. If we are to be Christ's disciples, there is a need to be pioneers of the new things. This will often require us to change.

- **Prayer for Enlargement** – It would be good to pause now, express our desire to hear God speaking, and then respond by acting on what He says. Let's pray at the beginning of this new day.

*Lord, we thank You for your patience with us. Help us to become good listeners. Forgive us for being distracted at times. Our desire is to develop a better rhythm of prayer and reading of Your word. We commit ourselves to finding a regular time and place to spend quality time with You. Do what You must in us to help us to become more sensitive to Your voice. Please build us up in love and faith as we allow You to enlarge our hearts. Release Your Holy Spirit's power and help us resist distractions. Thank You for hearing the cry of our hearts, for persevering with us and giving us the great privilege of a personal relationship with You. **In Jesus Name. Amen.***

## Breaking Ground:

- **Planning** – Right from day one of this plan the goal has been to encourage expansion of our capacity for God, and to be ready for the need to break new ground in our lives, Churches and communities. We need to continually call on God, who does hear us when we reach out to Him.

The next scripture verse is an illustration of what can happen when we do. Jabez cries out to God.

### **1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV**

*<sup>10</sup>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***

Jabez is thought to have been an ancestor of the King of Judah, and therefore a God-fearing man. He is said to have instituted a school of disciples. In Hebrew language they were called *Tirathim*, because in their hymns their voices were said to sound like trumpets; and *Shimaathim*, because in hearing they lifted up their faces, i.e., in prayer; and *Suchathim*, because they were overshadowed by the Spirit of prophecy.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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With this information in mind, why not cry out to God with the prayer of Jabez right now. Do it for our families, our Churches and our communities.

On Day 5 of our plan (Release and Occupy), we looked at how Nehemiah heard the sad news that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the people of Israel scattered. He wept and cried out to God in sackcloth and ashes. A deep burden fell on him to rebuild the city. Nehemiah prepared a plan, found favour with the king, declared his vision, gathered resources, and galvanised the elders and tribes of the people of Israel to work on the rebuild. It was achieved despite significant opposition.

### ***Nehemiah 4:6 NIV***

*<sup>6</sup> So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.*

The process of rebuilding brought transformation, fresh hope, and restoration for God's people. Many lessons can be learned from this story today. The journey took them from the initial sad news to the eventual reading of the Law of God in the temple by Ezra, who was a Jewish scribe and priest. The travail and pain Nehemiah felt was closely followed by His call to action, and this included the immediate formulating of a plan of action and implementation of strategy.

- **Strategy** – Those who organise and pioneer new things will know that good strategy requires having the right tools and people with the skills to use them. Strategy includes knowing the right time and place to utilise resources. Giftings are important but using them in the right way ensures finishing what you start. In the Church, God has released various gifts to all of us, some of them are very specific, and need to be pinpointed in the right areas. Gifts need to be recognised, and then released in the most effective way.

On Day 1 of our plan (Sing!), we looked at this scripture.

### ***1 Peter 4:10 NIV***

*<sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

We return to this passage again today. It has such profound meaning for the strategy God uses to bring about enlargement and equipping to break new ground. We need to remember that God's gifts are not for our personal benefit alone, but primarily to bless others.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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By understanding this, God's strategy enables us to break new ground in our own lives, and those of others. As we grow together using our giftings, we develop the capacity and reserves to bless others. Our testimony is the evidence of how God causes us to grow and mature in our faith. The goodness of God at work in us will impact other people, and this will extend the influence of His Kingdom. We will see communities directly affected by the love and power of God working through His people.

On Day 4 of our plan (Spread out), we looked at how the Presence of God can bring about change. But change can only happen when we give Him our hearts and allow Him to dwell in us by His Holy Spirit. The Presence of God brings real fruit if we allow Him space and room on our lives.

The Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament represents God's presence. What the Bible calls God's Shekinah Glory, is a visible manifestation of God on earth. The Holy Spirit releases God's power and presence through us to our world.

## **2 Samuel 6:11 NIV**

*<sup>11</sup> The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the Lord blessed him and his entire household.*

Surely this is something we would all long for? All that is required is our willingness to prepare, make room, and live holy lives. We then serve God faithfully using the gifts and ministries He has released to us. When we do this God's Kingdom is extended and He brings transformation to communities through us. Just as the ark of the covenant carried God's Presence, today we are to be carriers of His presence to a hurting world.

- **Mobilising** –We are not alone; we are part of the Church of Jesus Christ. We are part of His body. We need to remember this. Only then are we fully released into our full potential to enlarge and break new ground. In other words, together we will make a difference in our communities, wherever God calls us to live, work and minister. This next scripture is so important. It reminds us of the way to see God's 'commanded' blessing fully released. We first looked at this on Day 4 (Spread out).



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## **Psalm 133 NIV**

<sup>1</sup> How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup> It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.

<sup>3</sup> It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

The Bible is full of stories of God mobilising people. In some cases, the people of God become an army. This requires a different mindset, and a strict season of preparation, upskilling and equipping. The prophet Ezekiel had a dream which we look at now. It is very helpful as we consider how God's power brings life from death. The dream tells of the dry bones coming to life and becoming a powerful army. This life and power brings supernatural expansion so territory can be taken. This can happen in our communities, all for God's glory.

## **Ezekiel 37:11-14 NIV**

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. <sup>14</sup> I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'"

What a great illustration. The power of positive words brings life (prophecy declared). The army is raised up from nothing but bones! We need to realign our thinking. We need to try to resist being negative. Faith sees beyond the current situation. Faith stands in the gap until the atmosphere changes, and lives are supernaturally transformed. From death to life! God always sees potential in people we write off. If we want to see God do new things, we need to change our perspectives. Our words make a difference!

Enlargement starts in our hearts. What we say has power in it. This is something we looked at of Day 3 (Lengthen and strengthen).

## **Proverbs 18:21 NIV**

<sup>21</sup> The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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Today, let's be determined to allow God to enlarge our hearts and minds. Also, be prepared for Him to lead us into new territory to overcome the bondages holding our communities. Don't be afraid! Remember what we learned on Day 6 (No fear, no shame).

**1 John 5:14 NIV**

*<sup>14</sup> This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*

Let's choose to make a clear declaration before the Lord right now. Let's be determined not to be restricted by fear and the unknown.

In 1990, Morris Chapmen wrote this worship song. It is based on **Joshua 1:9**

*Be bold! Be strong! For the Lord your God is with you.  
I am not afraid, I am not dismayed, Because I'm walking in faith and victory,  
Come on and walk in faith and victory, For the Lord, your God is with you.*

- **Timing** – What does God require of us and when?

This is a big question for all of us. Our answer emerges when we develop an intimate relationship with Jesus and allow God to guide us by the power of the Holy Spirit. It comes when we spend time in His presence, reading His word, listening to the still small voice. It also comes by allowing God into our hearts and minds. By doing these things we maximise our opportunity to hear, respond and act upon what He says. What comes next is not just personal, it is to be acted on by the whole body of Christ. By being part of the Church working together, God's strategic plan emerges for our communities.

Whatever our situation, God has a plan and purpose. He also has the timeline and wants us all to get involved.

**2 Corinthians 6:2 NIV**

*<sup>2</sup> For he says, "In the time of my favour I heard you,  
and in the day of salvation I helped you."  
I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.*

We are all part of God's plan, with no exception. Let's be prepared to enlarge our hearts and break new ground wherever God ordains it. All that He requires is our availability.



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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- **Prayer of faith** – Let's allow God to 'Enlarge our Hearts' and use us to 'Break New Ground' for His Kingdom. Let's be determined to 'Stand Firm' in the victory He has won for us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Let's be willing to allow God the time and space to speak to us. Finally, ask God to release a new passion for the lost and a desire to be 'Mission Hearted' as individuals, and as a Church.

This week we began with the encouragement to Sing! Let's finish it with a Shout for joy!

**Isaiah 49:13 NIV**

*<sup>13</sup> Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains!  
For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.*

**Prayer for the day** – As with all the 7 Days in this plan, here is an extract from a longer pre-prepared prayer you can find at the end of the plan.

- xiii) *Lord, please help us to be a strong voice to our community. Help us to bring the presence of Jesus to those we meet and give us favour with all the people. We ask for Your favour to connect and work with those who have civic and political authority in our communities. We pray that You help us to build trust, and divine influence for the sake of Your Kingdom.*
- xiv) *We ask You to seal in our hearts everything we have considered this week. Especially, we pray that our hearts will expand in truth, integrity and compassion. Soften our hearts and break our hearts for what breaks Yours. Release new power and strategy to our Churches. Use Your people to see captives set free, especially those who are bound with fear and shame. Cause us to re-take territory that has been occupied by the powers of darkness. Use us to bring transformation to our diverse communities. By Your grace, we ask that You be glorified in everything we say, and everything we do in Your Name.*

***In and through the precious Name above all Names, Jesus. Amen***



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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## The 7 Day Prayer of commissioning

Two of the prayer paragraphs are used in the Plan each day. Why not pray through the whole thing at the end of the week. It would be a great final benediction.

- i) *We give You praise oh Lord our God. We thank You for Saving us, for Your grace, as we take the challenge to live a Holy life. We are grateful for the authority that You have provided us by our belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of our lives.*
- ii) *We choose to fully align ourselves to Your purposes, and desire for our hearts to be enlarged to create greater capacity for you to move as we continually give You the praise that is deserved.*
- iii) *Lord, please help us to go and break new ground in the right places, and in Your strength, serve You and our communities in a fresh move of Your Holy Spirit. Help us to adapt when You do things in a different way from what we expect.*
- iv) *Please create a greater capacity in me as we spend time in Your presence. Help us as I move into Your purposes, and our part in them. Provide us with the resources we need and help us to use them wisely.*
- v) *Energise us again Lord, and release healing, strength, and power to live and serve You. Help us to be sensitive to when as well as what You want us to be doing in Your Kingdom.*
- vi) *We open our hearts, to Your ways and Your purposes. Consume us with the power of the Holy Spirit, and give us a deep passion for Jesus, so we can bear good fruit and be good news in our world. We want to hear You clearly. Please tell us where and when You want us to break new ground.*
- vii) *We welcome the opportunities to break new ground for Your Kingdom. Help us to be willing to change from old mindsets to new ones. Help us to embrace new ways of doing things, by faith. Help us to recover territory yielded to the enemy by the people You have sent us to serve.*

# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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- viii) *Lord, use us despite our weariness, doubts, disappointments, and delays to answered prayer. Help us to adopt Your timing and have faith to press into the new. Release Your power in us to stretch out and dispossess the strongholds established by our adversary the devil.*
- ix) *Lord, we pray for Your covering and protection as we prepare our hearts. Please use us to dispossess the camp of the enemy from all the strongholds put in our way. Help us as we open our hearts. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit afresh. Help us to retain a deep passion to serve You and help us to directed it in the right places. Please release healing and renewed energy to live, serve You and see real breakthrough today.*
- x) *Lord, come with Your Holy presence as we choose to put down roots where You have planted us. We long for a demonstration of Your glory and goodness. Use us to affect the world in which we live. We want to see people set free and receive Your salvation. Release us and use us to see release in others, by Your mighty power. Touch the lost and desperate and bring them into an experience of salvation.*
- xi) *Lord will You please move our hearts with compassion just like Jesus. Help us to grow in sensitivity as we speak to those suffering with fear, anxiety and shame. Help us share the good news through practical acts of love and by pioneering new church expressions of love within our communities.*
- xii) *In everything we do, we want You to be glorified. Will You fill us again with Your power so that we can step out in faith and see You set captives free? We give You thanks for those who have found the freedom of Salvation in You alone. Please continue to bring healing, restoration and freedom to those who need it, and use us to do so. Be glorified in all we are, and all we do in Your Name.*
- xiii) *Lord, please help us to be a strong voice to our community. Help us to bring the presence of Jesus to those we meet and give us favour with all the people. We ask for Your favour to connect and work with those who have civic and political authority in our communities. We pray that You help us to build trust, and divine influence for the sake of Your Kingdom.*



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# ENLARGING HEARTS BREAKING GROUND

7 DAY BIBLE PLAN

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xiv) *We ask You to seal in our hearts everything we have considered this week. Especially, we pray that our hearts will expand in truth, integrity and compassion. Soften our hearts and break our hearts for what breaks Yours. Release new power and strategy to our Churches. Use Your people to see captives set free, especially those who are bound with fear and shame. Cause us to re-take territory that has been occupied by the powers of darkness. Use us to bring transformation to our diverse communities. By Your grace, we ask that You be glorified in everything we say, and everything we do in Your Name.*

***In and through the precious Name above all Names, Jesus. Amen***



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