Praying Thru Hebrews 3:1-6 & Matthew 7:24-29

Heavenly Father, thank You for the opportunity to live in heaven forever with You and Your family that You have given to all those who will trust in Your Son, Jesus, as Lord. When distractions and temptations from the world would draw us away from obeying You, help us fix our thoughts on Jesus as the One You sent to teach us and save us and go to heaven for us to intercede for us as our high priest. Father, we thank You that He faithfully obeyed You and faithfully saved us from our sins and the eternal death we deserve because of our sins. Help us to faithfully and forevermore obey and serve You as did Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ.

Lord Jesus, fill us with Your Truth and Spirit so we can express the love and honor You deserve before a world that is ever watching us as those who claim to follow You. Thank You were building us into Your house, Your family, and indwelling us by Your Spirit. Thank You for doing what our Father spoke through Moses about Your future and saving grace. Help us to firmly hold on to our faith in You, and when trials come help us to keep our hope firmly fixed on You and the future You have planned for all Your people.

Lord Jesus, as we read the Bible and your teachings, help us to understand, rightly apply, and practice daily Your words of life. Help us to build our lives on You and how You have taught Your followers to live so when the storms of life come we might be able to stand as Your faithful and obedient servants for Your sake and the sake of Your eternal kingdom. In Your name pray. Amen.

Please Note: I first learned about "Praying Through the Bible" from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the International Bible Lessons each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own "Prayer Through the Bible" using the International Bible Lesson scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read <u>How God Teaches Us to Pray</u>: Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.