

Praying Through Luke 1:26-38

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for reaching out to us through the words of Your prophets, Your angels, and supremely through Jesus, Your one and only Son. Thank You for working miracles in the lives of Your people; such as, Elizabeth and Mary, who gave birth to John the Baptist and Jesus the Messiah. Oh God, thank You for choosing a small town; such as, Nazareth, and sending Your angel Gabriel to give Your words to Mary, who would later raise Jesus in this small town. We know that in Your sight there are no little towns and no little people, for all can bring glory to You and serve You faithfully according to the Scriptures.

Lord God, thank You for using Joseph and Mary to be the earthly parents of Your only begotten Son, Jesus. Thank You for preparing them morally, spiritually, and physically to nurture Jesus in the way that He should go as Your Holy Spirit led them. We know that You work in the lives of all Your people, so many might be blessed through faith in Jesus. Work in my life today, so many might come to know the truth about Jesus!

Oh God, as we think of the virgin Mary, may we so live our lives as Christians that we too can be highly favored and called by You to Your good service. Help us fulfill our responsibilities as faithful subjects in Your kingdom. Thank You for doing all the angel told Mary, and we pray that Your Word might be fulfilled in our lives in Your special ways for us as we seek to study and obey the Scriptures.

Lord, we may feel that you have called us to impossibilities, as You called Elizabeth and Mary to do the humanly impossible, but we also know that Your mighty power worked in them, for nothing is impossible for You. We pray that You will work Your mighty power in our lives too, so together we can accomplish all Your purposes through us. We say with Mary, "I am the Lord's servant." May all Your words be fulfilled. 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 [How God Teaches Us to Pray](#): Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.