

Praying Through Psalms 23:1-6
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming into our world as the Good Shepherd and taking upon Yourself far more than David explained when he wrote his Psalms. More than this, thank You for coming into our lives and graciously saving us from the consequences of our sins and then coming to dwell within us so we can live for God daily. Thank You for the gifts of grace and faith that enable us to walk in ways that glorify You.

O Lord, because You have come into our lives as the Good Shepherd, we lack nothing. Everything we really need in this world and throughout eternity You will provide. You meet our needs for peace and quiet, even during times of confusion and turmoil, as Your Spirit helps us keep our hearts and minds focused on You and Your promises in the Scriptures.

Heavenly Father, we glorify Your Name this day because Your Son leads us on right paths: ways that will magnify Your holiness and love. Your Son, our Savior, helps us avoid behaviors that would dishonor both You and Him. Because of Your Son and His death and resurrection, we will be declared righteous when You call us home.

Lord Jesus, You did not promise us a pain free life, but You have walked with us and have carried us through the darkest places. You are the mighty and everlasting Son of the Father Who loves us; therefore, we fear no evil as You

give us guidance, discipline, and protection. On earth, You knew by experience the cruel opposition of hateful enemies. We, too, have suffered at the hands of mortal and spiritual enemies, but You have carried us through so we could rejoice in Your presence and receive blessings far beyond our expectations. Surely, Your goodness and mercy will sustain us and we will never be separated from Your love. We will abide with You and rejoice forever in the home You have gone to heaven to prepare for us. In Your Name, we 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 [How God Teaches Us to Pray](#): Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.