

Praying Through Jonah 1:1-17

International Bible Lesson

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Lord God, we praise You for speaking to us through Your prophets and apostles in the Bible. We praise You and thank You for helping us when wickedness comes up before You. We honor and glorify Your Name, because through the Scriptures You have shown us Your love and concern for all people. Indeed, You seek to save us from the destruction we deserve for our sins. We praise You that we can be saved from our sins by Your grace through faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and help us share this good news with others, and unlike Jonah help us to do so joyfully and willingly that many might come to know and praise You.

O God, remind us through Your Word and the examples of Jonah and others that we are not to change the course of our lives without consulting You, that we are to obey You always, even when we might prefer that our will be done. Help us remember that we cannot flee from Your presence without consequences. In spite of our sins, please use us, but keep us from the presumption that we can sin against You and still be used by You, especially when our open disobedience would dishonor You before the world. Lead us on right paths for the sake of Your Name and the sake of those You have called us to serve.

Lord, we thank You for giving us the discipline we need when we refuse to obey You. Help us to obey You always; if we disobey You and refuse to repent, please do what You know is necessary to return us to obedience. Please use us in the days ahead to teach others more about You by our true words and good examples. May we do all we do for the praise of Your glory. In Jesus' 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.