

**Praying Through Jonah 2:1-10**  
**International Bible Lesson**  
**L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

Lord God, please teach us the truths we need to learn from the prophet Jonah as the Holy Spirit helps us apply these truths to the ways we think and live. Thank You for saving us from many of the consequences we deserve for our sins and for giving us enough time to repent before bringing us under Your reclaiming discipline. Thank You for the grace and love You have shown us repeatedly, and thank You for building up our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as we study the Scriptures, whether the Old or New Testaments. Lord, like Jonah, we have sometimes felt the distress of having rebelled against You in different ways, sometimes with little recognition of that fact. We know that we deserve to be banished from Your kingdom forever, but You chose to send Jesus Christ into the world to save us from our sins and give us eternal life through faith in Him. We will praise You forever, because even before we called to You for help in our distress, You sent Jesus to answer our prayers and save us.

Heavenly Father, we praise You and thank You that we can join with others who love You and seek to serve You all around the world. We love to join with others in songs of praise and prayers. Help us learn lessons from our study of Jonah that will help us share Your promise of love and forgiveness with others, who like the Ninevites, need to repent and turn from worthless idols to You for salvation.

With true loving hearts, help us help those who are lost in sin and need Your gracious lovingkindness and truth to lift them up and save them forever. Help us help our fellow believers who may feel banished from Your presence sometimes because of their sins and shortcomings. Help us encourage them with truths from Your word and the assurance that You will answer their prayers, even as You answered the prayers of Jonah and found a way to return Him to Your faithful service, for salvation comes from the Lord. 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.