Praying Through Judges 13:1-7 & 24-25 International Bible Lesson L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Dear God, we humbly confess that we live in a world where evil seems to prevail and many are suffering at the hands of their enemies. We do not know all the causes of all this evil, but we trust in You and Your Word to us. If we are guilty of persisting in evil personally or as a state or nation, lead us all to an obedient faith in You. Deliver us from all our enemies whether spiritual, mental, or physical, and may Your protecting hand cover us daily. Help us live our lives in such a way that we do not forfeit Your protection.

We pray that You would raise up godly leaders in our churches and in nations around the world that more and more people would learn the truth about You and find salvation through You. Please do the impossible through us and all Your people that many might come to faith in You and rejoice in You. Help us study Your Word that we might know how to live and what truths to teach others that will be the most helpful to them and us.

We pray for Your blessing to be upon us and our children that they might know You the only true God and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. We pray for Your Holy Spirit to stir us and stir the hearts and minds of our children so that we can grow together and love and serve you in ways that will make a saving difference in the lives of others and in the nations of the world. Help us be Your loving and patient servants as we trust in You to bring Your kingdom

to earth that Your will might be done around the world and You would be glorified. 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 <u>How God Teaches Us to Pray</u>: Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.