

Praying Through Ezekiel 36:22-32

International Bible Lesson

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Sovereign LORD, we meet together this day as Your children to honor Your name and to praise Your glory, to study Your Holy Word and to seek Your help to live pleasing in Your sight. O LORD, we acknowledge the fact that You have led us from darkness into the light, not for our sake, but despite the fact that we have lived sinful and rebellious lives and we have brought shame to Your name by our behavior before You and others. We often grieve, because of our bad examples, and because of those things of which we are now ashamed, that have led some to turn away from You. Indeed, Father, we have been no better than the Israelites, though perhaps we have not openly practiced all the immoralities and idolatries that characterized the people of Jerusalem before they were carried into exile in Babylon because of their sins.

LORD God, if You were not loving, holy, just, merciful, and righteous, You would never have sent Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to live, die, and rise again for us. Indeed, we bow in worshipful praise before Jesus as our Lord and Savior for He has saved us from our sins, cleansed us of our sins, freed us from slavery to sin and Satan, filled us with Your Holy Spirit, granted us eternal life, and given us Your Word of Truth to be our trustworthy guide for Christian living. Father, draw us ever closer to You, reveal to us the meaning of Your Word as we study, and help us to live and love according to everything You teach us in the Scriptures. Give us a new heart and a new spirit so we will live in loving relationships with others, so others will be drawn to You, to saving faith, to reclaimed lives. Thank You for meeting all our needs, and help us unselfishly share what You have given us with those in need. May we never be tempted to disregard the ways out of temptation that You provide. May we never bring disgrace to You or ourselves again. LORD God, we humbly bow before You this day knowing that we are unworthy to be called Your children, and it is only by Your grace that we have faith in You and in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whose 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.