

Praying Through Genesis 17:1-14
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

LORD God, we praise You and thank You for Your love and grace that reaches out to us whether we are young or old. We thank You for the encouragement we receive when we think about the fact that You established a covenant with Abraham when he was ninety-nine years old. We know that You are God Almighty and You have the power to work in us, renew us, call us, and empower us to fulfill Your good purposes. Indeed, we humble ourselves before You and seek to serve and worship You faithfully, because You are worthy of all praise and glory. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness and fill us with Your Spirit so we can walk faithfully before You and live blameless in Your sight as You enable us for Jesus' sake and in His Name.

Father, we pray that You would use us in the way of righteousness and peace. Use us in ways that will enable many to come to faith in You. Help us remain faithful followers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Fill us with Your Spirit that we can serve as examples of what it means to be Your children. With grateful hearts, we acknowledge the fact that we do not deserve to be called Your children, but by sending Your only Son into the world to live and die and rise again for us You have established a new covenant and You have adopted us into Your glorious family. Help us to live worthy of the high calling of being Your children, so others can see You and Your Son in the way we live.

Lord Jesus, we seek to share with others the good news of the new covenant that You made by the shedding of Your blood. Help us and all our descendants after us live according to this new covenant. Show us the way of escape and empower us to take it when we are tempted to dishonor You in our hearts, in our actions, or by our words. May we ever seek to be totally loyal to You so You and others will see the deep love we have for You and the desire we have to obey You in all things; for it is in Your Name and for Your glory 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.