

Praying Through Exodus 20:18-26

International Bible Lesson

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LORD God, we confess that when we come before You in prayer we do not often well consider how awesome and holy You are, and how much we need the Mediator, Jesus Christ, as the only Way into Your holy and loving presence. Indeed, when we consider how much You hate sin and the consequences of sin and the destructive power sin releases into our lives and into the world, like the Israelites at the foot of Mount Sinai, without Jesus we would tremble in terror before You. We praise You and thank You, Father, for sending Your only begotten Son, Jesus, to bear on the cross the penalties we rightly deserve for the sins we have committed. Furthermore, we thank You and bow before You in humble adoration, because the blood of Jesus has cleansed us from our sins and You have sent the Spirit of Jesus into us to help us rightly represent You and Your kingdom before the watching world. We look forward to the day when everyone on earth will love You and praise Your holy Name! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

LORD God, speak to us in and through the Bible today and every day, and we will listen. We seek to know You and Your will day-by-day. As we read and study the Bible, we pray that Your Holy Spirit will lead us into all the truth. Through the Bible, may we learn more about and experience Your lovingkindness. Through prayer, may we learn how to act with lovingkindness toward all people according to all Your purposes for all Your people. Grant unto us the appropriate fear we need to keep us from sinning; and when we are put to the test, deliver us from sin and the schemes of Satan.

LORD God, in Jesus as revealed to us in the Bible and as explained to us by His Spirit in our studies of Your Word, we know that You have spoken truly to us from heaven. Show us any idols that we still cherish in our hearts, and help us to cast them away so they will no longer influence us. Free us from their enticing powers. Draw near to us. Draw us nearer to You. May the way we live daily demonstrate our love for You and our willingness to serve our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ so Your Name will be honored and You can bless us and those we serve. 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.