

Praying Through Genesis 15:1-6 & 17-21
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

LORD God, we thank You for Your holy Word revealed to us in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Thank You for speaking to us through a vision You gave to Abram before changing his name to Abraham. We thank You for Your many promises to Abraham and his descendants; for by grace through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior we too are his descendants. By Your Spirit within us, cast out our fears and remind us that because You are our God we do not need to be afraid. Indeed, we look upon You as our shield and our very great reward.

Sovereign LORD, please continue to work in our lives so we can glorify You by everything we say and do. Please work in our lives so we can faithfully represent our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ before a watching world. Please give us all we need to live and serve You and others in this world, and help us avoid all selfishness. Lord God, there may be opportunities and things that we want, but opportunities and things that are not good or necessary for us; teach us all we need to know and help us be submissive to Your will.

LORD God, our concern today is not so much physical descendants, but spiritual descendants; not spiritual descendants in our image, but spiritual descendants in the image of Jesus Christ, who loves us and gave His life that we might have abundant and eternal life. Help us so live and speak that others might see something of the loving character of Jesus Christ in what we do and say, that others might be drawn to love and trust in Jesus too.

LORD God, we do not ask for visions as Abraham received, but we do ask that Your Spirit would guide us into all the truth as we study the Bible. Keep us from all error and help us teach the truth to others in ways that will lead them into all the truth, all the truth they need to give their lives completely over to You as our sovereign 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.