

Praying Through Matthew 2:1-12

International Bible Lesson

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You today for sending Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world as a little baby to be born in Bethlehem, the city of David. We thank You for revealing the birth of Your Son to Magi in the faraway East by showing them the star that they had come to expect to see someday from their reading of the Scriptures. We thank You for inspiring them to travel probably 800 miles in search of the Messiah, and we thank You for the star that led them to the house where He lived as a little baby. We praise You for the example they set when they bowed down and worshiped Him and brought Him precious gifts. To protect Your Son, we thank You that they heeded Your warning and went home by a different route. We pray that You will lead the way and give us the wisdom to worship and serve Jesus rightly as our Lord and Savior. We pray that You would show us the way to protect the innocent, and especially the powerless in our midst.

Father, we thank You for protecting Your Son from the evil King Herod and for watching over Him daily until it was time for Him to die on the cross for us. We stand amazed that so many were disturbed but remained indifferent to Him when they learned from the Magi that the Messiah had been born. We pray that Your Spirit would prevent us from being indifferent toward You and Your plans.

During this Christmas season, we pray that You would lead many to saving faith in Jesus Christ, and we also pray that many others would rededicate their lives to loving and serving Jesus supremely. Make us wise in what we say and do that by our words and actions some who do not know Jesus would be drawn to Him, to seek Him, to learn the truth about Him, to bow before Him, and to love him forever. 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.