

Praying Through Matthew 15:1-9
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your great love and mercy toward us, a love so deep and so gracious that You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to save sinners—even us. Indeed, Your Son not only taught us how to live by word and deed; He also gave His life as a sacrifice for many— that all who would believe in Him might not perish but inherit everlasting life. We praise and thank You once again for sending Your Holy Spirit into our lives that we might glorify You in thought, word, and deed.

Thank You Jesus for putting up with our stubbornness, and for patiently helping us put aside the human traditions that have kept us from obeying You and from showing our love for You by obedience to Your commands. Show us any and all false teachings that we may have knowingly and unknowingly embraced; reveal to us the truth and true meaning in the Bible as we study Your Word and seek to share Your Word with others. Help us refrain from judging others according to our ideas; instead, teach us how to judge rightly according to Your teachings, and help us take the logs out of our own eyes before we try to take the specks out of another's eye. Please send Your Spirit to fill our hearts and minds with Your loving guidance so we can be true examples of Your Way, and Truth, and Life; thus, leading others to seek You as their merciful Lord and Savior.

Lord Jesus, as You taught the Pharisees and Your own disciples, help us honor our fathers and mothers. Help us honor You with our lips and selfless service because our

hearts are so close to You that we desire to honor You with our lives. In Your 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.