

Matthew 4:12-22
International Bible Lesson Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for telling us through the prophets in the Old Testament many things that You would do in the future. As You promised, thank You for sending John to preach repentance and prepare people for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank You for showing us what Christians may face in this world, especially when they follow You with faithfulness in teaching the Bible and in showing how Christians can live and bring light into darkness—to those living in the shadow of death. We pray that You would help us faithfully follow Jesus Christ according to the Bible and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We pray that You would give us the courage to speak boldly when calling people to repent of their sins and follow Jesus. We confess that we have not been as bold as we could have been when speaking to those who were living in ways that John and Jesus told people to turn from when they turn to You. We confess that we have not told as many people as we could have to turn and follow Jesus in faith as their Lord. We confess that it has been too easy for us to tell people to accept Jesus as their Savior without also telling them to obey Jesus as their Lord and repent of their sins and live according to the Bible's teachings. Heavenly father, please give us the courage and wisdom we need to serve Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, and please help us live even as the first apostles lived in faithfulness until death. Please give us the love and wisdom we need to follow Jesus immediately whenever He calls us to follow Him—even into danger. 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.

International Bible Lesson Prayers are available at InternationalBibleLessons.org
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