

Matthew 26:1-13

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for teaching us about our possible future prior to Your death on the cross. From what You have taught in the Bible, we know that everyone has good and sufficient reasons to repent of their sins and trust in You as their Lord and Savior. We thank You for coming into our world willingly to suffer humiliation and death on a cruel cross in our behalf so You and our Heavenly Father can Both be just, merciful, and loving when forgiving the sins of all who repent and trust in You for salvation. You are worthy, O Lord, to receive all praise, glory, and honor from us and all Your creatures forever and ever. And yet, sadly, we know that some will persist in raising their angry and rebellious fists in Your face. They do not want to have any kind of loving and meaningful relationship with You or Your children, and You will eventually need to separate them from all who truly love You and one another. Knowing both the good news and the sad news for the sheep and goats, please help us study and teach the Bible in the power of Your Spirit that all who hear us will hear Your voice and turn to You with loving and joyful hearts. Lord Jesus, please prevent us from ever going the way of Caiaphas and the others who turned to the powers of darkness and turned from the LORD, even as they hypocritically appeared to be serving God according to His Law. We know that if our service to You is according to the Bible as Your Spirit leads that what we do for You and others will never be a waste, and You will defend us when others angrily condemn our service. 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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