

Matthew 28:1-15

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Jesus, Your only Son, to live for us, to die for us, and to live again for us. Jesus is Your provision for us. By His death and resurrection, He has the authority and power to forgive us for all of our sins, the power to cleanse us from all of our sins, and the power to enable us to live in ways that bring You and Him the glory and honor that You both deserve. Though our human efforts to magnify You might be feeble, You love and accept us by grace through faith in Jesus—the One You have given us to save us and grant us eternal life. We owe all we are, have, and will be to You, Father, and to Jesus, our Lord and Savior. O Father, in Jesus, we see Your face, Your glory, Your truthfulness, and Your lovingkindness. Please fill us once again with Your Spirit that we might live pleasing to You and in ways that will draw others to You, to love You, and to trust You too.

Lord Jesus, please forgive us when we doubt, as Your first disciples did, or refuse to obey You and Your commands, as Your first disciples did. Lord Jesus, we have no excuse when we refuse to do Your will, for we have the completed Bible and the Holy Spirit within us to guide and help us. From the Bible, we know that You will reign over all forever and ever, and we want to be Your faithful and obedient subjects in Your Kingdom. We praise You for Your heart of forgiving love that persisted in changing Your followers into friends; and then into brothers and sisters by adoption into Your family. O Lord, we truly rejoice that we can pray to God, OUR Father, and follow You, OUR big Brother. 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.