

Matthew 5:1-12

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the beatitudes You taught and preserved for us in the New Testament. We depend totally on You, so please help us live a morally and spiritually blessed life that flows from developing the Christian qualities that You described. Please help us better understand Your Word written and better apply what we are learning as the Holy Spirit guides and empowers us. Indeed, we cannot do anything of value apart from You. We confess our total dependence on You for all things, and we truly want to love You and live with You forever in the kingdom of heaven. Thank You for comforting us when we mourn over our past sins, and especially when we knew better but sinned again and failed You and ourselves. Please help us control ourselves when we are tempted. Please help us humbly help others when they do what offends You, others, and us. Indeed, by our maintaining self-control in dependence on You, we can be prepared to inherit the earth and treat others as You would have them treated. Lord Jesus, we do hunger and thirst for everything and everyone to be made right by You so we can truly love one another and be filled with Your righteousness. Knowing ourselves, our sins, and Your mercy, please help us show mercy and forgiveness to those who have sinned against us. We all need Your grace and mercy, and we pray that You will help us show Your grace and mercy to others, especially when we share the good news about You. Please help many more come to know the will of God and pray that the will of God would be done on earth as it is in heaven. Help us seek to know Your will to do Your will, and help us be peacemakers whenever we are persecuted for our faith in You. 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.