

Matthew 5:13-20

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, the Bible declares that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, and as followers of Jesus Christ we thank You for how You have remade and are remaking us into the image of Your Son, Jesus. You have made us the salt of the earth. Please help us preserve Your Word and the truth of Your Word on the earth. Please help us keep our “taste” as true Christians so others will desire to learn more about You and the precious gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, to the world. You have made us the light of the world, please help us share with others Your ways of thinking and the truths You have revealed in the Bible. Please direct our steps and put us where You want us so we can give light to all You want to help as Your light shines through us. Father, because we love You and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we want to obey You and keep all of Jesus’ commands. We want to do all the good works that You have called and gifted us to do. Please help us do good works in ways that will give You glory, reveal Your love for the world through Jesus, and show forth our deep love for You.

Lord Jesus, please teach us Your commands and the laws of God that You want us to obey, especially as we read the Bible and seek understanding. Show us which laws and traditions that You fulfilled that no longer apply to the way we live. Please help us keep and teach others to keep all Your commandments and accomplish all You have planned for us—fully knowing that our righteousness depends on You alone, Your finished work on the cross, and Your work in our lives by the Holy Spirit through Your Word written, the Bible. 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.