

Matthew 5:21-32

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for showing us how we need to look to our hearts and turn to You for the cleansing and renewal of our hearts by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We may never have been tempted to murder anyone, but we have sometimes become angry with those who have inconvenienced or offended us. Oh Lord, forgive us for our petty and sinful ways. When we have feelings of anger, please help us come to know the source. Show us if our feelings are from our own selfish sinfulness or if our anger is from real evil and sinful actions done to others or to us. Whatever the cause, please give us the wisdom to do what is right rather than become even more angry and resentful toward someone. We only hurt ourselves when we do not forgive and seek to know Your wisdom from the Bible and Your love from the Holy Spirit. Oh God, please show us where we have harmed others and where their anger against us may be justified. Please give us the wisdom to do what is right to make things right with them if possible. Please give us the courage and the love to reach out and make amends to those we have harmed wherever we wisely can as Your Spirit leads. Please remind us to seek prayerfully and listen carefully for the leading of the Holy Spirit in all our thoughts, words, and deeds.

Lord Jesus, please give us the wisdom and courage to put far away from us everything harmful so we will not be tempted to sin even further. Please help us use our eyes, ears, and hands in ways that do not sin or lead us into deeper sins. Lord Jesus, please free us from all slavery to all sins so we can rightly love and serve You and others. 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.