

Matthew 5:38-48
International Bible Lesson Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we honor You as our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend. Unlike the gods of this world, You are the God of justice, mercy, and love. We thank You that through the life and testimony of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, that we can depend on You to meet all our real needs. Please help us resist those who are evil with the love and wisdom You give us by Your Holy Spirit according to the Bible. If we are insulted for any reason, help us turn to You for the courage to do what is right. Help us refrain from escalating a problem by responding in a way that does not honor You. Instead, please help us do what Jesus would do so we can faithfully represent Him and our allegiance to His Kingdom in the world. Please give us the wisdom and divine protection we need so we can avoid doing anything that would make us liable to a lawsuit or the need to appear in a court of law. Should we be unfairly or unjustly charged with having done wrong, as our Savior was at His trial, please save us from condemnation and the anxiety that can come from evil and unjust treatment, knowing that in this world others may never learn the truth about the unjustified evil done to us. But Father, no matter what happens, as many injustices happened to Jesus and have happened to His followers throughout the ages, please fill us with Your Holy Spirit and keep us faithful. Please help us do more than is expected of us so some may see that we are indeed Your children. Help us seek what is best for everyone concerned. And please help us love perfectly, even as You love. 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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