

1 Samuel 1:9-20

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your faithfulness to Hannah and we thank You for hearing her heartfelt prayers. We thank You for Your Holy Spirit who inspired her to pray according to Your will despite her grief and vexation at having been treated so cruelly by Elkanah's other wife, Peninnah. Indeed, throughout the Bible we see the wisdom of doing as You originally intended and having only one husband and wife in a marriage. Indeed, throughout the Old Testament we see so much heartache that has happened from a man having more than one wife that we thank You for telling us in the Bible what is best for us. With the help of Your Spirit may we do what is right and wise. When we have obeyed You and lived according to Your will we have found satisfaction and security from living according to the way You designed us to live. Father, we thank You for Your Holy Spirit who inspired Hannah to make a nazirite vow in behalf of her son and to dedicate her son, if you would answer her prayer, to Your holy service his entire life. More so, Father, we thank You that by Your Holy Spirit Samuel remained faithful unto death to the vow his mother made in his behalf. We thank You that Hannah can be an example to us in so many ways! Despite her suffering, she remained persistent in prayer and persevered until You answered her and granted her request in Your perfect timing. We thank You for her sacrificial example in giving up her son at about the age of three to live at the temple in Shiloh and train to be a priest, prophet, and judge. As Hannah did, please help us to live for You in ways that will draw others, especially the members of our families, to trust in and obey You daily. In Jesus' 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.