

## **Praying Through Luke 1:8-20**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for appointing prophets, priests, and kings to preach Your word, intercede for Your people, and rule according to Your laws. Lord, many who have taken these positions of responsibility have failed to teach the truth, pray for Your people, and lead others to follow Your will. Indeed, we have often failed to do Your will. Forgive us for our sins and help us seek to know and do Your perfect will in the power of Your Spirit. Father, we thank You for sending angels to reveal Your purposes to those You selected. We praise You for sending people like John the Baptist, who filled with the Holy Spirit as a faithful prophet, successfully called many to repentance and faith in following Your Son. We bow in humble adoration and love before our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who reigns as the perfect Priest and King from the throne of God in heaven.

Father, help us believe in Your revealed words, the Bible. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Fill our hearts with Your love so we will dedicate our lives to doing Your will even when obeying You is difficult and dangerous. Draw the hearts of parents and children together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. By the Holy Spirit within us, grant us greater love for You and one another. Help us live wise and righteous lives in loving obedience to Your law of love. Help us prepare ourselves and others to live between now and the time when Jesus Christ will return to earth as He

promised. May we live our lives in obedience to You according to Your perfect timing. May we live and speak in such a way that others will come to believe Your words and trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior too. For the sake of Your coming kingdom. 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.