

Praying Through Ephesians 2:1-10
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Heavenly Father, thank You for raising us from death in transgressions and sins to life in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Thank You for showing us the futility and deadly results from following the ways of this world and the spirit who works in those who are disobedient. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and knowledge of the Scriptures so we do not fall back into the ways of this world or be misled by the ruler of the kingdom of the air. Grant us discernment and wisdom, understanding and power, so we will not follow the cravings of our flesh with its desires and thoughts or those who would intentionally or mistakenly mislead us.

O Father, we richly deserve Your judgment and wrath. We deserve to be sent far away from Your presence forever, but You have expressed Your great love for us in sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to save us from sin and condemnation. You are rich in mercy, and we praise You for making our forgiveness possible by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, Who died on the cross in our place. Even more, by Your grace, You made us alive with Christ. Indeed, You raised us up, and You have seated us with Him in the heavenly places; so, He is our ever present Companion, trusted Counselor, and loving Friend. Help us show forth and tell others about the richness of your grace, mercy and kindness toward those Who entrust their lives to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Holy Father, we acknowledge our total dependence on You as our Creator. Lord Jesus, we acknowledge our total dependence on You as our Savior. Thank You for inspiring and leading us to do good works by Your example and teaching. Thank You for planning in advance and providing the means for us to fulfill Your plans for us. Help us glorify You by all we say and do that many might come to faith in You and enjoy forever the richness of living in Your holy and loving presence. 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.