

Praying Through John 15:1-17
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Lord Jesus, thank You for drawing us so close to You that we can be compared to a branch on a vine that gives us life and enables us to bear fruit that will bless others.

Dear Father, thank You for loving us and caring for us even as You love and care for Jesus, Your only begotten Son. Father, even though the process of pruning may be briefly painful, prune us in ways that assure us of Your loving presence so as to make us more fruitful. If we did not know the word of Jesus that His disciples shared in the Bible, we would not be able to pray with confidence in You.

Lord Jesus, do all that You deem necessary and wise to help us remain in You at all times so we can continue to do what will help others. Lord Jesus, You have solemnly warned that there are consequences for those who will not remain in You; please do all You wisely can and bestow on us Your love and grace so we will remain in You and always pray according to Your loving purposes. Fill us with Your love that gives us peace beyond our understanding. Help us keep our hearts and minds focused and stayed on You, especially when we think we may be undergoing a time of promised pruning for our benefit and the benefit of others. In good times or in difficult times, help us show others that we are Your faithful and loving disciples. Help us learn more about You and Your will. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so we can display Your qualities as You work in

us. We love You and want to bring You joy by obeying You and fulfilling Your plan for our lives, and we know that this way of life for us will also bring us great joy. Help us love others, even as You loved those who crucified You, even as You laid down Your life because You loved those You came to save. You have blessed us by calling us Your friends, help us remain Your friends as we trust totally in You and You bear much fruit through us. 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.