

Praying Through John 20:1-10 & 1 Peter 1:3-9
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus Christ to die and live again in a resurrected, glorified, human body for us. Thank You for giving us ample evidence that He rose from the dead and was not a ghost, since eyewitnesses saw His empty tomb except for the discarded, unneeded grave clothes that He left behind. Thank You for inspiring Mary to testify about her experiences to Peter and John, so these two could go and verify that she told the truth.

Lord Jesus, after Your resurrection, thank You for appearing to and explaining the Scriptures to the two eyewitnesses on the road to Emmaus. Thank You for explaining the Scriptures about the necessity for You to die and rise again for our salvation. Indeed, if You had not risen and appeared to Your disciples in various ways they would not have believed, received Your Spirit's power, and boldly testified about Your love and grace.

Holy Spirit, thank You for inspiring Peter to write letters that became a part of the Scriptures. Thank You for the new birth we enjoy now that gives us a living hope because Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

Lord God, thank You for the promised inheritance we will receive in heaven. Thank You for protecting us by Your power, because even though various trials bring us grief, we greatly rejoice and see these trials as opportunities to show our faith in Jesus Christ is genuine.

Lord Jesus, we believe in You, love You, and are filled with inexpressible and glorious joy knowing we will receive the salvation of our souls by Your grace through faith. May You receive all praise, glory, and honor now and forevermore. 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.