

Praying Through Jonah 3:1-10
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for giving Your Word to us, for speaking to us through Your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, and for giving us the Holy Spirit to help us understand and live according to Your Word written, the Bible. Thank You for Your lovingkindness and patience that has given us many opportunities to repent of our sins and return to walking in Your way of Truth. Thank You for loving both Jews and Gentiles and all the people of all the nations of the world. Thank You for sending Your Word to all people around the globe, a word of promised salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and a word of warning for people to turn from their evil ways and violence to You. Thank You for working with Jonah through the loving discipline he needed so he would obey You and share Your word of warning with those he hated. Father, help us not to hate anyone, and help us show everyone Your love. Help us do whatever You command with loving and willing hearts. May we not be like Jonah. May we repent immediately if we sin rather than persisting in sin and suffering from Your redeeming discipline until we repent. O Lord, work in our lives in every way You deem necessary so we can walk more like Jesus Christ every day in thought, word, and deed. Help us be similar to the Ninevites, not in their sinful ways, but in immediately making the corrections to our behavior that we need to make according to Your teachings.

Lord Jesus, we believe in You. We trust in You. We love You, and we want to show our love by obeying all of Your commands. Grant us that peace that can only flow from You and Your Spirit within us as we follow You daily. In Your 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.