

Praying Through Acts 10:19-33

International Bible Lesson

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Dear Heavenly Father, we praise You this day because You love and are concerned about all people everywhere around the world. We glorify Your name because You sent Your only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to demonstrate the depth and the extent of Your love, Your forgiveness, and Your willingness to save all who will trust in Him as Lord and Savior. Thank You for demonstrating through the work of Your Holy Spirit, Your heavenly angels, Your apostles and prophets, and those in the Church, Your gracious desire to reach out and seek to save those who are lost so they can find Jesus.

Through the Holy Spirit, You can lead us and teach us not to hesitate when You call us to share the good news with others. You can help us teach others about Jesus, even those like Cornelius the centurion who was a righteous and God-fearing man, because everyone needs to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. If possible, help us lead others to those best able to answer their questions and meet their needs. When You call us to help others, encourage us to do what is right without delay as far as we wisely can.

Lord God, there are many who do not yet know the truth of the Scriptures or the truth of Jesus Christ. Even as Cornelius invited his relatives and close friends to hear the good news from the Apostle Peter, help us share the good news with our relatives and close friends and all who have need. Enlarge our hearts toward others so we will not call anyone impure or unclean, but only see people who need help, especially the help that You can give through Your relationship with them in Christ Jesus our Lord. Help us communicate with others the fact that even though they may pray and give gifts to the poor that will not cancel or atone for their sins, cleanse them from sins, empower them to do right, or give them eternal life; therefore, for good reasons, You sent Jesus Christ to do for believers what no one can do for themselves. We humbly bow before You with grateful hearts because You have done through Jesus what we cannot do for ourselves or others. 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.