

Praying Through Acts 8:26-39
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Lord Jesus, we praise You and thank You for sending angels to earth to help us and to help us meet the needs of others. We praise You and thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit into our lives as believers. We praise You and thank You for inspiring the Bible that we read and study to know the truth about God the Father and the truth about You. We praise You and thank You for loving us and pouring Your love into our hearts, for dying in our place so You could justly and mercifully forgive us for our sins and give us the gift of eternal life. Guide and direct us so we will know Your will for our lives, so we will be able to help others as Philip helped the Ethiopian on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. Help us as we study Your Word so we will be able to share the truth of Your redeeming love with all those who need to believe in You, be baptized, and entrust their lives and eternal future with You.

Heavenly Father, help us learn more about You and Your will for us through our study of the Bible and prayer in Jesus' Name. Guide us and guard us so we will not be misled by those who may pretend to be angels of light or who simply misunderstand the Scriptures. Help us discern good from evil in this world in which evil deeds and thoughts seem to predominate. Help us find ways to show forth and speak the truth of Your commands and the consequences of ignoring You, the one true God, so many

who are seeking You may find You as the Ethiopian did. Give us courage and opportunities under Your leading so we will be able to teach those who have no concern for God and Your commands and Your gracious offer of forgiveness and salvation.

Lord God, in these days of persecution, protect and defend Your people so we can continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ who came to seek and say those who are lost. 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.