

Praying Through Exodus 31:12-18

International Bible Lesson

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LORD God, thank You for speaking truth to us through Moses, the prophets, Jesus, the Apostles, and others in the Bible. Thank You for giving us rules to guide us and teach us how to live so we can benefit the most from the bodies and minds You have given us. Thank You for meeting our spiritual needs of forgiveness and cleansing from sin by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who died in our place. Thank You for freeing us from slavery to sin and Satan. Thank You for filling us with Your Holy Spirit, who teaches us how to rightly apply the Bible to our daily decisions and empowers us to do all we can to glorify You and bless others according to Your Word.

LORD God, we thank You for the gift of the Sabbath, a day when we can rest and find refreshment for our bodies, minds, and souls. O God, we thank You for this day when we can truly focus on the study of Your Word with single-minded love and devotion. Help us see the importance and value of observing the Sabbath so we do not make the Sabbath simply a day of legal observance, but a day You have given us to join with others in worship and praise and to thank You for the many gifts You have given to us. Help us see how best to use Your gifts, not for our benefit only, but for the benefit of others.

LORD God, as we celebrate the Sabbath, make us more aware of those who need Your saving grace, truth, and assurance of forgiveness and redemption. Help us learn truths from the Bible that we can share with others, and give us a greater understanding of Your Word so we are prepared when others need to understand Your Word. Help us see and enable us to explain to others how right and reasonable Your Word is as a way of life and that obeying Your Word and following the teachings, example, and Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior is the only sure hope for our lives and the only hope of the world that He came to save. Indeed, we pray, “Come quickly Lord Jesus! We know that Your delay reminds us that You do not desire that any should perish, so help us keep sharing the good news of Your first coming with others.” 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.