

Praying Through Exodus 19:16-25

International Bible Lesson

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LORD God, You alone are worthy to receive all glory, praise, and honor for You have revealed yourself truly in words and deeds. After speaking alone with Moses at the burning bush on Mount Sinai, You appeared before all the people of Israel and revealed Your majesty and power to all of them. Even as lightning and thunder come from Your heavenly throne, so thunder and lightning (with a thick cloud over the mountain) and a loud trumpet blast revealed Your presence to the Israelites as they camped at the foot of Mount Sinai. Indeed, You have revealed Your splendor in ways that people can see and hear and understand: all creation proclaims Your divine nature and power.

LORD God, even as the Israelites were unworthy to touch the mountain that You made holy by Your presence, so we too are unworthy to come before You. We have sinned against You, and too often we have chosen to follow our desires and temptations rather than walk in Your holy and righteous paths. Forgive us for our disobedient and shameful ways. We acknowledge our unworthiness to come into Your presence, and we only do so boldly because You sent Your Son to save us from our sins and be our Advocate. We thank You for speaking truly to the Israelites and to us the words that You gave Moses to pass on to them and to us. Indeed, Your words of truth reveal moral laws according to our nature as You created us. You revealed them in the Bible so we would know how best to live in the world You created and among people You created in Your image.

LORD God, even as Moses spoke to You, and the people heard You answer him, we know that by grace through faith in Jesus Christ we can speak to You knowing that You hear our prayers and will answer us according to Your wise ways and perfect timing. Today, we re-consecrate our lives to You and Your service. Use us to bring glory, praise, and honor to Your name so many might come to You in repentance and faith and adoring love for You and the Savior of the world, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whose 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.