

Praying Through Nehemiah 9:32-38 & 10:28-29

International Bible Lesson

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O God, You are our mighty and magnificent God! We praise and thank You for calling us into Your kingdom and making us a part of Your family by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. You are not some idol made with human hands or a god of our imaginings. You created all things and You rule over the heavens and the earth. You have expressed Your love for us by speaking to us truly in the Bible and through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Your love is steadfast and unchanging. Despite any hardships we suffer, we know that You abide with us and will bring good from anything that happens to us. Fill us now and always with Your Holy Spirit so we will live faithfully day-by-day, always trusting in Your faithfulness and guidance.

Just as the ancient Hebrews humbled themselves and confessed their sins to You, so we acknowledge that You have been just, righteous, and faithful while we have sinned against You, our neighbors, and ourselves. We would be without hope if You had not sent Your Son into the world to suffer in our place the consequences of sin that we deserve to suffer. And even now far too many of our leaders in places of power over us do not keep Your laws and commandments despite all Your warnings in the Bible. Indeed, too many encourage others to live according to the very practices that Your Word warns will destroy body, mind, and soul. We pray that in the days ahead You would watch over Your people and give us the courage, strength, and wisdom to persevere in faithfulness to You as we trust in Your holy Word.

Lord, help us appreciate all You have done and continue to do for us. We pray that we would not take Your many gifts for granted but use them as reasons to praise and thank You, from Whom all blessings flow. Now, we consecrate our lives once again to You and to Your service, to the One who has freed us from slavery to sin and has adopted us into His family. May all who see Your bright light shining in and through us see the Way clearly and be drawn to You for Jesus' sake. 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.