

Praying Through Daniel 9:4-19

International Bible Lesson

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Heavenly Father, our Creator, Sustainer, and loving Savior through our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have too often come to You with prayerful demands for blessings that do not truly begin with adoring hearts or words of worship; we do not acknowledge You as the great and awesome God as we should. We pray that by Your Holy Spirit within us You would lead us as we begin to pray, so we will give You the honor and glory due Your Name and not take You or Your lovingkindness for granted. Indeed, if You did not graciously keep Your covenant of love with us through Jesus Christ, we would be ruined even as we prayed. Father, forgive us for our neglect, for we truly love You and intend to keep Your commandments. Fill us with Your love and guiding Spirit that we might love You more and more and express that love in words and deeds before You and the watching world.

O God, even as Daniel prayed, we confess that we too have sinned and done wrong. We cringe in shame when we admit that we have sometimes been wicked and have rebelled against You and Your commandments, which You gave to us for our sake and the sake of others. We are truly ashamed of our past unfaithfulness to You and thank You for Your Spirit who leads us today to walk in faithfulness to You and the Scriptures. Help us to live more faithfully in the face of temptations and the tensions we feel in our fallen world.

O Lord, we glorify and honor You today for You are righteous, and we could not come into Your presence if You were not merciful and forgiving. We cannot express sufficiently our words of heartfelt thanks to You for sending Your one and only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to live as a human, to teach, to demonstrate, to die, and to rise again for our salvation. For Your sake and the sake of His suffering and dying in our behalf, fill us with the desire to live in ways that display His love, His presence, His faithfulness to You and us, and His willingness to forgive and grant eternal life to all who will repent and trust in His for salvation. 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.