

# Praying Through Genesis 22:1-14

## International Bible Lesson

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise You and thank You today for the example of truth faith that You have given us through Abraham. Lord, we know He was not perfect and neither are we. He did not always trust in Your divine protection and sometimes used deception to protect himself. However, he believed Your promises to him, to his son, Isaac, and to his family after him. When You tested him, he proved himself faithful by doing all that You commanded him. By faith, he did exactly and immediately all You told him to do.

Lord, today as we focus our attention on learning from the Scriptures, we pray that by thinking more about Abraham's decisions while being tested that we too would become a people of true faith. By the influence and power of Your Indwelling Spirit, may we prove true to You during all our trials and tribulations. Because of our sins, we know that we can never be declared righteous in Your sight, and our only hope of being declared righteous is by Your grace through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. O Lord, give us more grace, increase our faith, grant us patience and Your perfect peace.

O God, we thank You that You will never test us as You tested Abraham, knowing full well that You would never allow Him to slay and sacrifice his son. We thank You that You would never tempt us to disobey Your commands or violate Your law of love. We thank You that Jesus chose to die on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, being willing to do for us what we could never do for ourselves no matter how many costly sacrifices we might make. When we are tempted to doubt Your love or disobey You, help us remember Your promises to us in the Bible, and help us make decisions based on Your faithfulness to keep all Your precious promises. In times of desperation, help us look to our Savior Jesus Christ; help us pray with confidence knowing that He is Lord over all and we live and breathe surrounded by His loving and all-powerful arms. Lord, Abraham did not have the Bible, but we do, so help us always trust in Your Word. 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.