Praying Through *John 21:1-14*
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Lord Jesus, in many and various ways You proved that death could not defeat You, the gates of hell could not hold You captive, and no stone could keep You buried in a tomb. You are not and were not a ghost. You were glorified and bodily resurrected from the dead on the third day after Your crucifixion. You are the Son of the true God; therefore, You can and did appear and reappear to Your followers and You can and did pass through locked doors and walls. You could appear and appeared on the shore of a sea and bake fish and bread that You created out of nothing to feed Your disciples. Knowing all things, You taught Your disciples how to fish for fish and then how to fish for people. We believe, because Your followers and their followers for generations taught all You commanded them to teach us, and Your Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible as we prayerfully study Your Word with a heart to obey all we learn. You manifested the fact that God the Father approved Your work in the world and raised You from the dead. Our future rests secure in You. We praise You and worship You as One worthy to be praised; in addition, along with all things You created, You created us. But we rebelled against You; therefore, You died to save us from our sins and rose from the dead to grant us eternal life. We believe in You; we love You, and we bow before You as our Savior and Lord. Move within our hearts and minds to lead us in the ways of righteousness and peace that we too might be empowered

to lead others to believe in You and be prepared to reign with You in the Kingdom of God when You visibly reign upon the earth as King of kings. 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.