

Praying Through Genesis 3:8-17; 20-24

International Bible Lesson

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for creating us with amazing abilities and awesome powers so we could honor You by our obedience and by rightly ruling over the creatures You placed under our authority. But, Father, we confess that we have acted in our own way instead of Your way, as did Adam and Eve. Sometimes we have been deceived by temptations from the world, the flesh, and the devil, and we have disobeyed You by believing and acting upon false promises. We confess that too often we have openly rebelled against Your kingdom on earth. We have not been deceived and we have knowingly disobeyed You. We look back upon our behavior with deep sorrow and regret — we have disappointed You and ourselves and we have grieved the precious Holy Spirit who lives within us and tries to help us. Please forgive us for our rebellion and sinful practices. We take hope in knowing that after Adam and Eve sinned You met their need of forgiveness, even though You also had to discipline them and make them an example for all who would follow. But, Father, we take greater hope from knowing that You have offered to forgive us and will forgive us by grace through our faith in Jesus Christ, Your Son, who had to die on the cross to make Your gracious and just forgiveness possible. Father, even now we recommit ourselves to Jesus as our Lord and Savior, to obeying His commands, and to living as His good and faithful servants. We need more than the knowledge of right and wrong, we need Your Holy Spirit and the truth of Your Word written on our hearts from the Bible to help us grow spiritually closer to You each day and finally become all that You would have us to be both now and forevermore. 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.