

Praying Through Genesis 18:9-15; 21:1-7
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You this day for all the encouragement that our study of the Bible gives us. Indeed, we thank You for speaking truly to us even when we doubt, when like Sarah we see and hear Your words to someone like Abraham and You do all You promised; then, by grace You increase our faith. Help us see and appreciate Your love and grace more completely as You act in our world. May we always be thankful for Your love and grace in our own lives working to do good. When we read the Bible and You point out to us those behaviors and thoughts that we need to turn from, please help us not to be afraid but thank You for helping us be more faithful to You in the future by believing and acting on what You tell us. By Your Spirit, please draw us closer to You and speak to us directly through the Scriptures as we study. Help us apply the words and examples You have given us from the ancient past in the lives of Your people and please make them relevant to our day-to-day concerns.

O God, it seems sometimes that our days of opportunity have passed us, that we are too old or have been too sinful to be of service to You or others. Please, Lord, encourage us as we read the Scriptures to know that we are never too old to pray and intercede for the needs of others. Please encourage us by Your Spirit through the Scriptures and help us remember this promise from You: "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool" (Isaiah 1:18). O Lord, we may not be an Abraham or a Sarah, but

You have made us in Your image and have called us into Your kingdom. Please help us fulfill all Your purposes for us. 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.