

Praying Through Genesis 30:22-32, 43

International Bible Lesson

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Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness to Rachel and Jacob. Thank You for Your fulfilled promises to them and to many others in both the Old Testament and the New Testament; for we have the assurance that promises yet to be fulfilled at the return of Jesus Christ will be fulfilled according to Your perfect timing. We also know that Your precious promises to us and to all Your children as revealed in the Bible will be fulfilled someday; indeed, by experience we know that many of them have already been fulfilled. We cherish the fact that we can serve You, even as Jacob, Rachel, and Joseph served You through many hardships and trials. We pray that Your Spirit would work in and through us to bless others even as they blessed others in ways large and small.

O Lord, as Your children we have sometimes been abused and deceived even as Jacob deceived his father and Laban later deceived Jacob. And yet, You later brought good to Esau and Jacob, and You eventually brought peace to Esau and Jacob by influencing Jacob to make wise decisions. Please help us to totally depend on You as did Jacob, guide us in making wise decisions, knowing that You will bless us with Your presence in this life and someday we will see You face to face by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose 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.