

International Bible Lesson
Praying Through Luke 1:26-31, 2:22, 25-35
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Dear Father, we thank You more than our words can express for the amazing and wonderful gift of Your Son Jesus Christ to us! We thank You for carefully choosing Mary to be His mother, a woman who found favor with You. We thank You for carefully choosing Joseph, who obeyed Your call to be the one who would raise Your only begotten Son as his own. We thank You for sending angels and righteous and devout people filled with the Holy Spirit, such as Gabriel and Simeon, who followed Your leading and brought blessings and encouragement to Mary and Joseph. We thank You for protecting them, providing for them, and giving them peace when they fled to Egypt for a time before returning to Nazareth in fulfillment of the Scriptures and to save their baby from Herod's death-dealing hatred.

O God, we thank You for the Holy Scriptures that teach us so much about You, Your Son, the Holy Spirit, and Your plans to save us from the guilt of sin and the power of sin and grant us eternal life now and forever. Indeed, Jesus is our salvation and our only hope now and for eternity. We thank You that Jesus is our all-sufficient Lord and Savior, and Who will be for all who will entrust their lives and destiny to Him, whether they are Gentiles or the people of Israel. We thank You that He came to teach us the truth and show us the truth that we might live in truth; and that He died for the truth that we might inherit eternal life through faith in Him. And yet, even as Simeon prophesied, Jesus was rejected by many, who

eventually crucified Him; still, since His resurrection many have risen to great deeds of love that have led to the salvation of many. 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.