

International Bible Lesson
Praying Through Psalms 103:1-22
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Father God, we do bless Your Holy Name today, and pray that Your Holy Spirit would move us each day to bless Your Holy Name and help us recall all the many blessings that You have bestowed upon us. Father, even as followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we do not deserve the many blessings we receive from You each day—blessings that point to even more blessings in this life and throughout the life to come. As we study Your Holy Word, remind us of the many blessings You bestow upon us, for we truly want to bless, glorify, and worship You with our whole being and personality. O Lord, You deserve our undivided love and loyalty, but Lord we do not love You as You deserve. Please fill us with Your loving Spirit and help us love You with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, for this is our heart's desire. You first loved us; You created us; You know all of our shortcomings and sins; yet, You still maintain Your steadfast love for us and You remain true to Your many promises to us in the Bible. You have won our love through being with us each day and helping us get through this life on earth. Indeed, as the Psalmist, David, wrote: You forgive all our iniquity, You heal all our diseases, You redeem your lives from the pit by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, You crown us with steadfast love and mercy; despite our trespasses, You satisfy us with good so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's—we are enabled by Your Spirit to serve You each day in some way even in our old age. O Lord, in this world today, many of Your people suffer and are oppressed, please give righteousness, justice, and peace to them all. Please bless

our children and our children's children, and may they always be faithful to You. 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.