

Luke 14:7-14

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world as the Truth, and as the One who would reveal the truth to us in word and deed. We thank Him and You for His parables that reveal moral and spiritual truths to us that we can understand with the help of the Holy Spirit and our commitment to think through and apply these truths to our faith and way of life. We pray that You would help us speak and act rightly in every situation in which we find ourselves. Help us turn from self-seeking to Jesus-seeking and Jesus-following. In some sense, with the help of the Holy Spirit, please help us reveal Jesus and His truth to those around us by what we say and do, by our total way of life, and not just on Sunday. Help us so live that we never bring shame upon Jesus or shame upon ourselves, whether in public or private.

Lord Jesus, please help us truly honor You if we ever find ourselves being honored for our achievements, for we know that without Your help we would never achieve anything honorable or worthwhile. Please help us humbly use any honors we might receive to bring more honor to You as the Lord and Savior of the world. Please help us use our earthly honors in ways that might draw some to You—the only One truly worthy of all glory, honor, and praise. Please help us become more aware of those around us that we can help. There are those who truly cannot help themselves. Please show us where we can help others with our time, talent, and treasure in ways that will point to You as the Ultimate Source of all help. In Your 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.