

Luke 15:11-24

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we glorify Your Name and seek to praise You before others today for sending Jesus Christ to teach us not only how much You love all Your sons and daughters, but to also show us how much You love us through Him. Father, we confess that we are not worthy to receive Your notice, not to mention to receive Your gracious care and abundant lovingkindness. Father, we confess what You already know, from time to time and in some cases for a very long time, we have preferred this life's worldly pleasures and the brief gratification they bring instead of seeking the honest and true pleasure in knowing You and instead of desiring the true happiness and peace that You want to give us. We confess that we have wanted many harmful things this world offers and we have craved the sinful experiences that come from having turned our backs to You, instead of wanting to spend time in Your presence and instead of desiring the type of relationship with You that will bring us pure and eternal joys. Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your only Son into the world to seek and find and save us. We thank You for waiting patiently and lovingly for us to turn to or return to You. We thank You for Jesus, who is the Truth and who taught and displayed the truth by everything He said and did. We thank You for sending Him to free us from slavery to sin, death, and the devil through the truth and His life, death, and resurrection that has saved us from a lifetime apart from You and everlasting regret. We thank You for the Holy Spirit and His application of the truths of Your Word to us and our life situations that helped us come to ourselves and return to Your open arms and loving heart. 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.