

Mark 1:16-20 and Luke 14:25-33

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son into the world to draw the people of Your choice to serve in Your Kingdom on earth. We rejoice that fishermen such as Simon, Andrew, James and John immediately obeyed Jesus and followed Him to fish for men. We pray that as we study the Bible that we might follow their example of faithfulness to You. By Your Spirit, please encourage us to obey You immediately when we discern Your will in the Scriptures and learn our duty to You and others. We pray that the Holy Spirit would help us retain Your teachings in our minds and give us the courage to follow You wherever You would lead us.

Lord Jesus, sometimes when we read the Bible, we do not understand at first some of Your difficult teachings. Please grant us the ability to learn the truth and obey all the truths we learn as we learn them with the help of the Holy Spirit. We do love You more than all others, even more than we love our own lives. You are worthy to receive our love and loyalty because You are the Great King, the Son of God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Lord. Please help us see the real cross or crosses we need to bear and please give us the courage and strength to pick up our crosses and bear them to the end You have determined. Help us learn and count the cost of being one of Your disciples, for we want to be faithful to the end. You deserve our total commitment no matter the cross we bear or the price we pay. Indeed, by dying on the cross for us, You paid the ultimate price to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. 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.