Romans 12:1-8
International Bible Lesson Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your multiple mercies. Through Jesus Christ, we owe all that we are and hope to be to Your work of grace in us. We thank You for Your lovingkindness and truthfulness revealed in the Bible and personally to us. Please give us a greater appreciation and love for Your Word and help us serve You better each day as the Holy Spirit works within us. Because of all that Jesus Christ has done for us through His sacrificial death to forgive us for and cleanse us from our sins, we pray that You will help us present ourselves to You as holy and acceptable living sacrifices to achieve Your purposes. May our spiritual worship of You always be in Spirit and in Truth throughout each day.

Lord Jesus, please help us avoid conformity to this world. By Your Spirit, please give us a greater love for You and the Bible so we can better know You and live in greater conformity to Your purposes and in Your ways. By Your Word and Spirit, please renew our minds and transform us into Your image. In the midst of events around us, we pray that Your Spirit would use Your Word written on our hearts so we can discern Your good, acceptable, and perfect will for us. As we learn Your will in this fallen world, please give us the courage and strength to do Your will along with other members of Your body, the Church. Please give is the faith we need to look into ourselves with sober judgment according to the standards You have set in the Bible, and please help us follow You wherever You want us to go so we can use the gifts You have given us. 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.

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