

Mark 15:6-15, 25-26, 33-39 **International Bible Lesson Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your dear Son to us to suffer so horribly so we could have our sins justly and mercifully forgiven by You, the Lord of the universe. By sending Your Son to live a perfect life, by His obeying all Your commandments, and by His doing Your will always, You upheld Your law of love. By Your loving us and His dying as a sacrifice for our sins, You demonstrated the infinite importance for everyone to obey Your law of love, to love You and others. By the death and resurrection of Jesus, You have honored and upheld Your law. Thank You for all the details You have given us about Jesus' suffering and death in the Bible—many of them foretold in the Old Testament so we can truly know that Jesus' death for us truly was according to Your will. Father, it remains difficult for us to consider how religious leaders could plot the death of Your Son after knowing all Jesus did to bless so many in ways that only God can do. So many years later, it is obvious to us that Jesus was the long-expected Jewish Messiah, the Son of God, promised in the Bible, sent to save us from our sins and empower us to lovingly and wisely serve God and others.

Lord Jesus, we stand amazed that anyone would prefer a murderer be released from prison instead of wanting to save You from death. We stand amazed that those who knew all that You had done for them would cry out for You to be crucified. Please help us to never be guilty of rejecting You. Please help us when we are tempted to prefer the things of this world to obeying You from love for You. 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.