

1 Samuel 18:1-5 & 19:1-7

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the true and lasting friendship that we can have with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ because You sent Him into the world to die for us. Thank You for the friendship that we can have with all those who trust in Jesus, with all who are the friends of Jesus too because we do what He commands. Lord Jesus, thank You for the covenant of love that binds us to You in heart, mind, and soul. Please help us truly love You with all our strength and bear much fruit that will last.

Lord Jesus, please help us fight the good fight of faith. As Jonathan was willing to give up his claim to be a rightful king following his father, please help us give up our lives in Your service as Your friends. Please help us sacrifice our time, talent and treasure to bear much fruit for You, and even be willing to sacrifice our lives in our love and service to You and those You call us to help and protect. Jonathan stripped himself of his armor to protect David and to put David before himself as the next king of Israel. Please help us put on the full armor of God as the Bible teaches in Ephesians 6:13-17, “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” 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.