



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Praying Through John 4:1-9

Dear Heavenly Father, in Your wise providence, You sent John the Baptist to prepare people for the coming of the Messiah, Your only Son; then, as You promised, Jesus began His ministry after John baptized Him. Father, we thank You for all those who went before us to help us find and follow Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, and we ask that You help us help others find Jesus too. Father, we thank You for the example that Jesus Christ left for us. We learn from Him that we do not need to subject ourselves to needless argument and debate, especially when we know that others just want to criticize and condemn rather than remain open to learning the truth that You revealed in the Bible. Lord Jesus, we also thank You for showing us that we should not always seek the easiest way, because we sometimes need to take the most difficult and dangerous way in order to share the truth about You with those who can learn about You in no better or timely way. Lord Jesus, You revealed Your humanity to us when we learned how You grew tired, thirsty, and hungry from travelling long distances to tell others the truth about God, the truth that our heavenly Father loves us and does not want us to perish. From Your example, please help us become more willing to sacrifice in behalf of those who need to receive Your saving grace and You as their salvation, for we know You made the ultimate sacrifice when You suffered and died on the cross for the just and merciful forgiveness of sins. 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 *Verse-by-verse Scripture Handout* 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 *Verse-by-verse Scripture Handout* 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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