



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Praying Through John 5:1-9

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise Your glorious Name when we think of how Your only Son sought out the neediest people to help, whether mentally, physically or spiritually. Your Son, Jesus, had the power and the deep love to use His power to benefit others, and we know He revealed Your deep love and longing to help everyone. As we think of Jesus walking from Judea, through Samaria, to Galilee, and then back to Jerusalem in Judea, we see how Jesus more than walked “a second mile” to help others. We are humbled when we think of the feeble excuses we make when we want to avoid going out of our way to help someone in need. Indeed, Jesus showed what it means to be children of God and have a loving heavenly Father. Please help us live daily and faithfully as Your devoted children, and please help us show in word and deed what it means to live as a follower of Jesus Christ. Lord God, as we remember the man who had been ill for thirty-eight years and how Jesus healed him completely, we are amazed when we think of how Jesus picked him out of the crowd to heal after thirty-eight years of his hopeless waiting. We cannot imagine his feelings at not having a friend to wait beside him to help him when the waters stirred. We can only imagine how he must have felt every time someone else entered the pool before him. Perhaps he had given up ever getting into the pool in time to be healed. Yet, we know that Jesus lives as a Friend to the friendless and as a Healer for the hopeless. Help us to always trust in Jesus and His efforts to always do what is best for everyone. 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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