Praying Through 1 John 3:1-10

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise You and thank You for Your undeserved love that motivated You to call us and make us Your children by pure grace through faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior, and Brother. Please help us truly live as Your dear children in the world so some might come to know You through us as we show forth Your love and the truth about You, whose only begotten Son is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Lord Jesus, we thank You that someday You will reveal yourself to us, so we will see You as You are, and so we will become like You. Today, please help us live in love, purity, and righteousness even as You lived when You walked on Earth. Help us do right and abide in You and in our Father as we learn more about You and how to live with purity of heart, mind, and spirit in the world. Grant us the enlightenment and empowerment that the Holy Spirit can give us as we study the Bible and practice all Your commands. Lord Jesus, help us abide in You day-by-day and moment-by-moment so we will never practice sin, which is lawlessness. There was and is no sin in You. You never acted lawlessly. Please help us so abide in You that we will never live in lawlessness but in obedience to You and all Your commands in all areas of life. Please continue to reveal yourself to us and take away our sins. If we do sin, help is to immediately confess our sin to You and return to obedience. Cleanse us from all sin and take away all sin in us so we can do what is right, just as You are righteous. 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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