

Praying Through Acts 6:1-8
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that Your Holy Spirit worked through good and faithful disciples in the creation of the Church. We thank You that Hellenistic Jews and Hebraic Jews came to faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We thank You for inspiring acts of charity in behalf of those most needy, widows and orphans. When the Hellenistic Jews felt that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food, You inspired the Twelve Apostles to expand the leadership roles in the Church that have made a difference even today.

Lord Jesus, we thank You for giving the Apostles the ministry of the word, and they did not neglect that ministry to do other important work in the Church. We thank You for the standards they set for leaders in the Church, and we pray that You would help us choose leaders who meet those same godly standards. In the Church, help us choose as leaders those who have demonstrated proven character, who are full of the Spirit and wisdom. Help all of us in the Church give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word according to Your plans and purposes, in the variety of ways You have prepared for us. We thank You for giving Church members the opportunity and responsibility of choosing leaders according to biblical standards, and as we choose these leaders and they set themselves to the tasks before them, we pray that the word of God would sink deeply into

the hearts of more men and women and children around the world.

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the example the first deacons in the Church set for all who would follow You. We thank You especially for Stephen who died as a martyr and for Philip who shared the gospel with Jews and Gentiles alike. We pray that by Your grace we would have the courage and trust in You that we need to share the gospel as they did. By Your grace, help us be as obedient to the faith as the first Christians, and help us lead others to love and obey You as Your faithful disciples. 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.