

Just Like You

'Elijah was a man with a nature like ours ...' James 5:17

In the Bible we read about men and women who God chose for some special work. Elijah was a prophet: God spoke to Elijah so that he could tell the people what God wanted them to know. God also helped Elijah to do wonderful things, so that the people would know that the words he spoke really were from God.

We might think that people like Elijah were different from us, much braver than we are. But our verse today teaches us that Elijah was like us. He could feel afraid or tired or lonely like we do. Elijah trusted God and obeyed God. He believed that God would give him strength to do the things He asked him to do.

In this book we will learn about some of the women in the Bible, who trusted God like Elijah did. There is much more to read in the Bible about these women. I hope that you will soon be able to read more for yourself.



THINK AND PRAY: Praying to God is important. Pray that God will help you to learn something each day about what it means to trust Him.

DAY 1

Sarai Leaves Her Home

Read: Genesis 12:1

Sarai lived about two thousand years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. She was married to Abram and their home was in the city of Ur. This city was in the country now called Iraq.

One day Sarai knew that she must leave her home in Ur. She did not know where she was going to live. God had spoken to Abram and had told him he must leave the place where he was living. God promised that many people would come from Abram's family. He also promised that families all over the world would be blessed (made happy) by Abram's family.

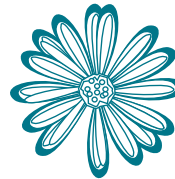
Abram and Sarai obeyed God. They set out, not knowing where God wanted them to go. Abram's father, Terah, and Abram's brother's son, Lot, went with them. They travelled many miles up a river valley to the city of Haran. The journey would have taken a long time, with



no cars or trains or aeroplanes. They may have used camels to carry them and their belongings. They stayed in Haran until Abram's father died.

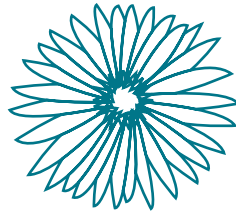
Sarai had to get ready to travel again. She was about sixty-five years old and Abram was ten years older than her. But they needed to find the place where God wanted them to live. They took another long journey, this time into the land of Canaan.

God spoke to Abram again. God told Abram that He would give the land of Canaan to his family. Sarai no longer had a house to live in. She would have to get used to living in a tent. Abram became rich, with many animals, and with silver and gold. But Abram and Sarai never lived in a house in Canaan.



THINK AND PRAY: Sarai travelled many miles to a land she was not used to. She and her husband did this because they obeyed God. Ask God to help you obey Him.

DAY 2



Sarah's Baby Boy

Read: Genesis 21:6

Sarah did not find it easy to believe God's promise that this family would grow into many people. She was getting older and she had no children. Many years went by, and God promised that Sarah would have a son. It was hard for her to believe this. She was so much older than a mother usually is when her baby is born. But God had even told Abraham what their baby's name should be: Isaac. (The name Isaac means 'laughter'.)

When Sarah was ninety years old, her baby was born. Abraham and Sarah called him Isaac as God had said they should. Sarah's life had not been easy. She had travelled from her home in the city. She had lived for twenty-five years in a tent, learning the ways of a different land. She had waited so long for this promised baby. What a happy time for her now, with her little boy to care for.

Sarah had a long time of learning to trust God. She learned that God always does what He promises. She also

must have learned that there was something very special about Isaac's birth. The promises that God had given to Abraham, about this family, would belong to Isaac too.

Do you remember God's promise about Abraham's family doing good to families all over the world? In your Bible, find Matthew chapter 1 verses 1-2, and verse 16. God's promise to Abraham and then to Isaac, was all about the Lord Jesus. He is the Son of God. He is the only person born into the world who never sinned (did anything that is wrong).

When the Lord Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment for the sin of everyone who trusts in Him. This is the good news for families everywhere.



THINK AND PRAY: We are all sinners. Jesus is the only person without sin. When you pray today, ask God to help you to understand why the Lord Jesus came.