

Just Like Me

'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 will learn more about Elijah further on in this book.

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 other men who trusted God like Elijah did. There is much



more to read in the Bible about these men. I hope that you will soon be able to read more for yourself.

PRAY: That God will help you to learn something each day about what it means to trust Him.



DAY 1

Abel Does Right Read: Genesis 4:3-5

Adam and Eve were the first people that God created. They had two sons whose names were Cain and Abel.

God had made a perfect world. He gave Adam and Eve just one rule to keep. However, they disobeyed Him. That was how sin came into the world. Everyone born into the world since then, except the Lord Jesus, is sinful. We all do, say and think things that are wrong.

God promised to send someone to save us from our sin. We now know that this is Jesus, who died to take sin's punishment for everyone who trusts in Him.

In Old Testament days, an animal died instead of the person who had sinned: we call this a sacrifice. It would not take away the person's sin. It showed that they were very sorry for their sin. They were trusting in God to send

the promised Saviour. It was like a picture of what He would do.

Cain and Abel knew about sacrifices. One day Cain brought some of the food he had grown, as an offering to God. Abel brought one of his sheep as a sacrifice. God was satisfied with what Abel did. It showed that Abel understood that the animal died instead of him, so that his sin could be forgiven.

Cain knew that God was not pleased with him or with the offering he brought. Instead of putting things right, he was angry with his brother. He did a terrible thing. When the two brothers were out in the field, Cain killed his brother Abel.

Abel had done what was right. We read in the New Testament that Abel offered the right sacrifice because he trusted in God ('by faith' – Hebrews chapter 11 verse 4).

THINK AND PRAY: Ask God to help you to do this. Do you trust in the Lord Jesus? Ask the Lord God to help you trust in the Lord Jesus.

DAY 2

Noah Obeys God

Read: Genesis 6:5 and 8

Have you seen pictures of flooding when rivers overflow? Water may cover roads and fields, and sometimes gets into people's homes.

Long ago, when Noah was alive no-one had ever seen a large flood. God told Noah that because the people were so wicked, He was going to send a flood. He told him to build an ark, like a large wooden boat. God gave Noah all the instructions he would need. He told him what sort of wood to use and how big to make the ark.

God is patient. He gave the people a long time to be sorry for their wicked ways. The people did not love God or want to please Him. They did not believe that God would punish them for their sin.

Noah believed God and he did what God had told him to do. It must have taken a long time to build the ark, which was about 140 metres long.

The ark had to be very big because God had said there must be some of every kind of animal and bird in the ark. There must be seven of some sorts of animals and two of other sorts. There would need to be plenty of room to store food for all the animals.

Seven days before the rain began, God told Noah that he and his family must go into the ark. Noah and his wife, and Noah's sons Ham, Shem and Japheth and their wives did as God said. You may wonder how Noah managed to bring all the animals into the ark. Just as God had promised, once Noah was in the ark, the animals came to him. (Genesis chapter 6 verse 20 and chapter 7 verses 8 and 9.)

THINK AND PRAY: Think about how patient God was with the people. He is also patient with you. Pray that God will help you to believe what He says in the Bible. Ask Him to help you to do what He says, whatever other people do.