

Section 1

Just like us



READ ME FIRST!

Elijah was a man just like us — with one difference. At the start of 1 Kings 17, he prayed that there would be no more rain on the land. And there wasn't — Elijah went through a number of adventures where God answered his prayers in the most outstanding ways. Finally, after Elijah had brought Israel back to the LORD, he prayed again, and the rain started.

But the Bible says he was a man just like us — and the experience of Christians today who have learned to pray earnestly in the way Elijah prayed is that God is still willing answer prayer in the most outstanding ways, if only we are willing to ask.

Learning to pray — like Elijah — can be and should be the most amazing adventure in the world today. The door stands open — all we need to do is enter God's world of living by prayer. This series — Project Elijah — is about learning how, and beginning to do it.

Route map
1

Just like us

2
But what if it doesn't?

3
What do you expect?

4 Keep on keeping on

5
Before starting, do this

6 What's it really about?

7 Together

Now it's my turn

*How to have a prayer diary.
Take a notebook rite down your prayer request.
In a separate column write down the date you started, and leave a column blank for the date it is answered.
Pray daily — until you get an answer.*

James 5:17

Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

James 5:17

John 14:13

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

John 14:13

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

James 1:5



Section 3

What do you expect?



Question: What did Elijah expect when he said there would be no rain for three years?

Answer: He expected that it wouldn't rain.

Question: What do most Christians expect when they pray? **Answer:**

Nothing very specific.

The difference? Elijah had learned some of what it meant to trust God. To pray in the way Elijah prayed (and the way Jesus prayed) we need

to learn to ask specifically. Sometimes being specific means we immediately stop praying for it — we can see there's a reason why God wouldn't want it to happen.

But usually, it is the beginning of putting it before God and learning to expect Him to keep His promises.

We know two important things about God. He is completely just, and He is completely loving. There are many things we can ask for — almost demand — because God has promised them. And He never breaks His promises. Other things we can ask for counting on His love towards us.

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How to boost your expectations:

1) Read the Bible - see what God has done in the past

2) Ask older Christians about how God has answered their prayers

3) Write down and remember each time God answers you

Matthew 17:20

[Jesus said] "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20

1 Samuel 14:6

Jonathan said "Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few!"

1 Samuel 14:6

Psalms 27:3

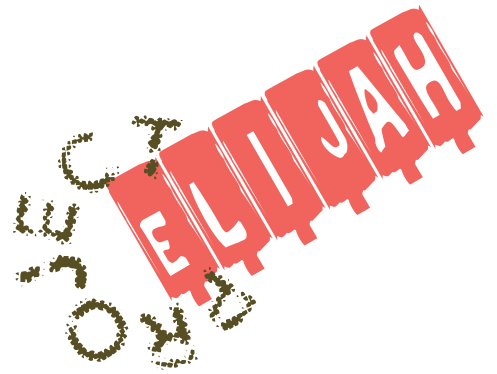
Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.

Psalms 27:3



Section 4

Keep on keeping on



Nobody can explain this week's point better than Jesus...

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men.

3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to

him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly.

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How to keep on keeping on:

It can help to:

Keep a prayer diary (see week 1)

Fix a time and place to pray daily — even if it's only five minutes.

You need to:

Recognise that God really is in control



2 Timothy 1:3

I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

2 Timothy 1:3

Luke 18:1

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up... [parable of the unjust judge]

Luke 18:1

1 Thessalonians 3:10

Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

1 Thessalonians 3:10

