

Letter to Roderick

Dear Roderick,
Things have been terrible lately. It all started when Mom had to go to the hospital. Why did God let her get sick?



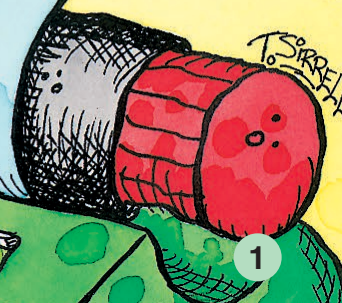
Dad doesn't seem to have time for us. He's at work or he's at the hospital with Mom. My sister and I always fight now. I need Mom or Dad to help me with my homework. My teacher doesn't understand my bad grades.

Why would God let these things happen, Roderick? Doesn't He care about me? What should I do?

Jeff

Jeff seems pretty sad in his letter to Roderick. Read the letter, then help Roderick with his answer.

Dear Jeff,



I'm All Alone, God!

Bible Story from 1 Kings 19:1-18



Things had been going so well! God helped me win the contest with the priests of Baal. The people turned back to the true God. Then something terrible happened. Evil Queen Jezebel sent me a message: "Elijah, I'm going to kill you! Tomorrow by this time, you'll be dead!"

I was so scared, I ran away! I was alone. After walking all day, I finally found a bush that would give me a little shade.

I lay down under the bush. I was tired and unhappy. I just didn't know what to do.

"Lord, I wish I could die," I prayed. "Your people have killed all Your other prophets. I'm the only one left. Now they want to kill me, too."

I was so tired that I fell asleep right away. When I woke up, an

_____ was standing over me.

Read 1 Kings 19:5 to fill in the blank.

"Wake up and eat!" he said. "You need to be strong enough for a long trip."

I looked around and saw some freshly baked bread and a jug of water. How good they tasted!

The long trip turned out to be a 40-day walk to Mount Sinai, God's holy mountain. When I got there, I found a cave where I could spend the night.

Suddenly I heard a voice. "What are you doing here?" God asked me.

"Lord God," I answered, "it's no use. Your people have turned away from You. They've killed Your prophets—I'm the only one left. Now they're trying to kill me, too!"

"Go out and stand before Me on the mountain," God commanded.

I stood in the entrance of the cave. I had a feeling God was going to tell me something important.

Suddenly a roaring wind rushed by. I grabbed the side of the cave to keep from being blown away! Then a terrible earthquake shook the ground. After that, a bright fire flashed in the sky. Last of all came a quiet little whisper, so soft I almost didn't hear it!

God made these four things happen so He could teach me. But God Himself was there in only one of them.

Read 1 Kings 19:11-13. God made Himself known to Elijah in one of the four ways. Which one was it?

Then God asked me again, "Why are you here, Elijah?" And again, I told Him how upset I felt.

"You aren't the only one left who serves Me," God answered. "There are 7,000 others who have never worshiped Baal."

I felt much better after hearing that! God also gave me a job. "You must choose two new kings—one in Syria and one in Israel," God said. "And you must also find a man named Elisha. Choose him to be My new prophet. He will help you carry on My work. You won't be alone after all."

After what God said, I could hardly wait to find Elisha, my new helper. It felt so good to know I wasn't alone. I knew God would keep on helping me.



Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7

What gets me down

I get sad when

- ☐ I can't get a good grade even though I work hard.
- ☐ I just don't seem to be able to play the music my teacher gives me to learn.
- ☐ I get in trouble for not getting my chores done on time.
- ☐ Other kids don't include me in their games at school.
- ☐ I get sick and it takes a long time for me to get well.

What gets me up

I get better when

- ☐ I talk to God.
- ☐ I can be with my friends.
- ☐ I keep in mind that God is caring for me.
- ☐ I get a hug.
- ☐ I remember Jesus is always there.
- ☐ I talk with someone about my problem.



Write a prayer you could say when you're feeling bad. _____
