

3) THE ADVENTURE OF **GOING** **WITH IT**



WARM UP: Share something you have learned about God during lockdown or something you have newly appreciated about yourself, others or where you live.

One question that we all face is what is our life about and how do we find that purpose? Because the opposite of living with purpose is living aimlessly. Pastor Paul talked about the Lear jet tragedy that killed Payne Stewart, the golfer. A plane that flew on autopilot for thousands of kilometres but with no one guiding it, until finally it crashed. It looked fine on the outside but inwardly it was a catastrophe. (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/daily/oct99/crash26.htm>) How sad and how sad for people who live aimlessly. They may look fine on the outside but inside there is chaos. God wants an adventure for each of us but it may not be the way the world envisages it.

READ 1 KINGS 17:1-24 (Context to story of Elijah. The kingdom was divided into northern and southern kingdoms. Since Jeroboam, there had not been a priest in the northern kingdom and now King Ahab was introducing Baal worship. Elijah was sent to announce God's judgement in the form of a drought – neither dew nor rain. This was a direct challenge as Baal was considered the lord of rain.)

1. What was significant about the way God looked after Elijah? The word Kerith means cut-off – what was Elijah cut off from? How cut-off have you felt during lockdown?
2. What was Elijah's response to God's words to him – v 5 and 10. How does this give us a clue as to what we should do? (Be open to God. Ready to step out of our circumstances).
3. What do you think Elijah did during this time? Why do you think God led him into isolation? What do you think God is saying to you during this time?
4. Elijah did as God said and then the brook dried up – how do you think he would have felt? Then he was told to go to Zarephath near Sidon, which was on the coast and right in the middle of the region where Baal worship came from.
5. After having taken him in and fed him, the woman's son died. What was her reaction (verse 18) and what was Elijah's (verse 20). What is our reaction when things go badly?
6. Elijah learned 3 lessons
 - Lesson of God's presence in isolation
 - Lesson of total dependence on God
 - Lesson of unconditional obedience

What do you think is the hardest lesson for you?

THIS WEEK'S GO! CHALLENGE: Go on a walk and pray, "Lord I don't fully understand but here I am use me".