

Elina's Story

Bangladesh

"You aren't good for anything," Elina's mother would yell in anger. She would shoot back, "I don't want to talk to you." This was 11-year-old Elina's life for a long time. As one of five children in her family in Bangladesh, Elina's parents considered her the problem child. She says, "They thought there was something wrong with me. Quite often, I felt very unloved and depressed."

Though her family was Christian, and they brought her to church, Elina didn't like it. She didn't have many friends, and she fought a lot with her siblings and parents. But things began to change for Elina when they saw a sign for *Project Philip* Bible studies for children at their church.

Her pastor encouraged her to join the program. Elina attended every class and did not miss even once. She recalls, "I began to regularly go to church. I prayed to Jesus every day and read my Bible." As she grew in faith and studied God's Word, she felt more at peace in her life. The fighting decreased and so did her anger.

Elina beams, "Now, I have my own Bible and my favorite verse is, '*All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other*' (John 13:35 ERV). God changed me. I started to love my siblings. There is more peace and harmony at home. I know Jesus loves me. I'm proud to say that I'm a child of God."



Questions:

How is Elina's life different than yours? _____

Do you get along with your siblings and family? What do you do together? _____

How has studying the Bible helped Elina? _____
