



Inside every one of us is the longing for home - not for a specific street address, but for meaningful relationships in which we can be fully known and loved. Unfortunately, in our fallen world this kind of life-giving community is rare. This is where the church comes in. In God's master plan he made a way for his people, filled with his Spirit to form a new community that transforms the world. This is what we were created for! I hope you will join us in this 9-week series as we learn to show the world there's no place like home.

Discussion Questions: (Leaders please review each question and pick those that will be most beneficial for your group.)

1. Read 1 Kings 18:20-40. Despite having God's word available to him (such as Deut. 29:17-19), what did King Ahab build and do according to 1 Kings 16:30-33 that led to the confusion of God's people and promoted the worship of Baal in Israel? What confusion about God do you think leads Christ-followers today away from a lifelong commitment of faithful obedience to him?
2. God used Elijah to confront the confusion of his people. How did the people of Israel respond when he asked them to choose which deity they would follow (See 1 Kings 18:20-21)? What did their response reveal about the condition of their hearts? Why was their silence in response to God's word, a sign of complacency? How do you respond when you hear God's word? What does this reveal about the condition of your heart?
3. To break through their complacent hearts Elijah held a lightning contest to show that Yahweh alone is Lord. The prophets of Baal went first, and although they performed and even cut themselves to offer their blood, their "god" did not send fire from heaven. In what ways do we try to perform and destroy ourselves in an attempt to get what only God can provide? Will you agree that whenever you engage in this "role reversal" you too are guilty of Baal worship?
4. When Elijah prayed, how did Yahweh respond and what was the response of his people (See 1 Kings 18:36-39)? Why is the fire of God the only thing that can break through complacent hearts and cause us to fall on our faces proclaiming "The LORD, he is God"?
5. In Luke 9:54 the disciples wanted to call down fire from heaven in judgment on the people who did not receive Jesus. But instead in Luke 12:49-50 Jesus said he came, not to bring fire from heaven in judgment, but as the perfect sacrifice: He willingly took the fire of God's wrath for our Baal worship so we can be filled with the fire of his Holy Spirit to love and serve others. Yet in order to be filled with this fire, we must repent of all Baal worship and believe Jesus Christ alone is LORD. Will you do this right now?