



There's a lot of competition for our attention. Israel was dabbling in multiple gods when Elijah squares off with the prophets of Baal. And God displays his power and presence for a purpose - to turn our hearts back to his. We see God active at the altar, and our response should be like the people of Israel - to say He is God.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1 Read 1 Kings 18:20-29. God shows up to shame idols.** This scene shows us ancient idols and the ways people sacrificed for them. What are modern day idols that people worship? How can we identify idols in our lives? Why do these idols eventually disappoint and even cause harm to people?

**2 Read 1 Kings 18:30-35 and 38. God shows up to show off.** Why does Elijah have the altar soaked before it's going to be lit? Why does God give us excessive demonstrations of His power? Share a time in your life or in the life of someone you know where God did something incredible in what felt like a hopeless situation?

**3 Read 1 Kings 18:21, 36-37 and 39. God shows up to change hearts.** God's people were living like they didn't belong to God. And God brings his presence and power to restore relationship with them. What does this tell us about God? How did an inward change in the people lead to an outward response? How does that inform our response to God?

**4** How does God showing up on Mount Carmel point us to God showing up on Mount Calvary? How does Elijah's altar point us to Jesus' cross? *(There's more than one right answer.)*

**5 1 Peter 1:13 (NLT)** says, "Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world." This reminds us that **God showing up is not a matter of if - it is a matter of when.** How is the hope we have for Jesus' return also motivating for today?

