

# FIRST

A GATEWAY CONFERENCE

## Holy Fire

**Focus** God invites us to offer our lives as living sacrifices to be consumed by the holy fire of His love, so that the world will see His magnificence.

**Fun** Name one interesting place you would like to visit in 2014.

**Review** Key Scriptures: 1 Kings 18:16–39; Romans 12:1–2

The story of Elijah on Mount Carmel speaks to the Church today.

- *We have lost the presence and power of God.*  
King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, had turned away from the Lord and were leading the nation of Israel to do the same. Similarly, the church in America today is not bringing the transforming light and power of God to our culture.
- *We must warn those who are held captive by sin. (Romans 1:28–32; 2 Timothy 2:23–26)*  
Elijah confronted King Ahab and the prophets of Baal because they were destroying Israel with their idolatry. In the same way, we are called to lovingly tell people the truth about the consequences of sin, not to put a burden of rules on them, but so that they can be set free.
- *We are called to build a place that the fire of God can consume.*  
After failure on the part of the prophets of Baal, God's power was revealed when Elijah prayed and fire came down from heaven to burn the sacrifice. As believers, we build a spiritual altar for the presence of God when we surrender our hearts and lives fully to Him. When we live in unity with each other, God's light, truth and love are revealed to the world.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Ask if any of the group members need help with a home repair project or if anyone has a neighbor or single parent friend who needs help. Grab a few people from the group and go help.

- Discuss**
1. Read 1 Kings 18:16–39. What stands out to you as you read this passage?
  2. What are some of the signs that the Church has “hidden its light,” or “lost its saltiness”?
  3. Why do we hesitate to confront sin? What are the pitfalls? How can we go about confronting sin in a healthy, loving way?
  4. Read Romans 12:1–2. What does it mean “to present our bodies as a living sacrifice”? How often should we do this?
  5. James Robison talked about the need to place briquettes or logs in a manner so they’re touching to successfully start a good fire. This is a picture of unity in the Church. Why is unity so important? Read Psalm 133:1–3 for further reflection.

- Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:
- We need a manifestation of the presence and power of God.
  - We are called to be salt and light and to confront sin with a loving attitude.
  - We build an altar for the presence of God when we fully surrender our lives and live in unity with each other.

**Pray** Pray for the presence and power of God to be released in your group, your families and in the Church.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Spend time praying for each member of your group. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to pray for them.