



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Session 3: Mount Carmel

Building an Altar

Supplies needed: smooth river stones and permanent markers for each participant. River stones can be purchased at local craft stores.

- Read the following background to the class for background:

During the showdown on Mount Carmel, Elijah took it upon himself to rebuild an ancient altar to God that had been torn down by pagan worshipers. This was the altar God would use to show the Israelites and all who gathered in Mount Carmel that he is the true and living God.

- Then read **1 Kings 18:30-32** to the class.
- Now, together, the class will build an altar. Distribute a smooth river stone and permanent marker to each participant. Give the class a few minutes for each person to reflect and write a personal dedication of faith on their stone. It can be a few words, or the chapter/verse of a favorite scripture . . . whatever can fit on the stone's surface. Have each participant also put his or her initials on the stone.
- When everyone is ready, have each participant come forward to lay his or her stone on a designated spot, stacking the stones upon each other (as if stacking wood to start a fire). Participants can verbalize what is written on their stone as they place it, or keep silent; it is their choice. When the stone altar is completed, have everyone stand around the newly created altar and repeat together:

The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!

- You may also ask for a volunteer to say a prayer over the altar. Have each participant retrieve his or her stone to have as a keepsake.