



**Discussion Questions**  
**Sermon title: "Living in the Smoke"**  
**Scripture: Exodus 30:1-11**  
**Date: August 1 & 2, 2015**

Don't feel pressured to cover every single question, especially in the "Let's Dig" section.

**Let's Talk**

- Scent and memory are strongly linked in our brains. What are some of your favorite smells and what memories do they bring up?

**Let's Review**

- In the Old Testament, the Tabernacle represents the presence of God with His people. But now, we have God's Spirit with us, making our heart the new Tabernacle.
- God commanded the priests to burn incense on the golden altar every morning and evening and the incense was to be left burning continually throughout the day and night.
- The smell and the incense was a powerful reminder that God had heard the prayers of the people. Indeed, throughout scripture, incense symbolizes prayer.
- Just as the incense continually burned, Jesus continually takes our prayers before God. We get to bring the incense of our prayers to our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ.
- When we pray we need to fill up the place with Holy Smoke by praying in accordance with God's will and for His glory.

**Let's Dig**

- How has your prayer life been recently?
- Why is prayer so important for a Christian lifestyle?
  - a. As a group, see how many benefits and reasons there are for prayer. Try to link scriptures with each item on your list.
- Read Matthew 26:36-40 and John 16:19-24 and talk about what it looks like to pray in accordance with God's will.
  - a. How do we pray with confidence and allow for God's will?
  - b. What should we do when it seems like our prayers go unanswered?
- Read Romans 8:18-30 and talk about how prayer connects with the Holy Spirit and our lives.
  - a. What does it mean that the Spirit prays for us in groans that words cannot express?
  - b. Is it ok to not know what to pray for sometimes? Why or why not?

**Let's Act**

- Try praying in a new way this week. For example, try praying with your hands up to God, praying a passage of scripture word-for-word, praying while taking a walk in a park, etc. Take note of how it changes your attitude, or what you pray for. Talk about it next week!

