



## **Sermon Discussion Questions**

August 2, 2026

Exodus 30:1-10

Prayer Rising Like Incense

Clint Pressley

### **Opening Questions**

1. What stood out to you most from this sermon on Exodus 30 and the altar of incense? Why did that particular point resonate with you?
2. Before this message, had you ever connected the Old Testament altar of incense with prayer? How does this visual picture help you understand prayer differently?

### **Understanding Prayer from Exodus 30**

1. The pastor explained that the altar of incense was positioned "right in front of where God meets at the Mercy seat." What does the placement of this altar teach us about approaching God in prayer?
2. Why was it significant that worshippers had to pass the altar of sacrifice (representing the cross) before reaching the altar of incense (representing prayer)? How does this shape how we pray today?

### **The Six Characteristics of Prayer**

#### **1. Intentional Prayer**

What does it mean for prayer to be "intentional, not accidental"? How can you make your prayer life more intentional this week?

#### **2. Constant Prayer**

The incense was burned morning and evening. What "rails" or routines help keep your prayer life on track? How do you balance scheduled prayer with spontaneous prayer?

#### **3. Informed Prayer**

What does it mean to pray "informed" prayers that are biblical, thoughtful, and heartfelt? Can you think of a time when you needed to pause and think more carefully about how you were praying?

#### 4. Doctrinal Prayer

Why does it matter that our prayers are doctrinally sound and centered on the Trinity? How might "sloppy" prayers misrepresent who God is?

#### 5. Christ-Centered Prayer

The sermon emphasized that "your prayers are only as good as the gospel you believe." What does this mean? How does the gospel enable us to pray with confidence?

#### 6. Prayers of Awe

When was the last time you felt a sense of awe while praying? How can we cultivate more reverence when we approach God?

### **The Lord's Prayer**

1. The pastor walked through the Lord's Prayer, reminding us \*who\* we're asking with each phrase (sovereign Father, holy God, King, all-wise God, God of provision, God of grace, Shepherd, etc.). Which phrase in the Lord's Prayer speaks most powerfully to your current season of life?
2. How can you use the Lord's Prayer as a template to guide your personal prayers this week?

### **Personal Application**

1. The sermon closed with three questions: \*\*What are you praying for? Who are you praying for? Through whom are you praying?\*\* Take a moment to answer these personally or share with your group.
2. What is one specific change you want to make in your prayer life as a result of this message?

### **Closing**

1. The central message was: "Effective prayer will change your life." Do you believe this? Have you experienced seasons where consistent, faithful prayer transformed something in your life or in someone else's?