

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary, to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

## The Altar of Incense – February 26, 2023

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

### 5 Parts to The Ordination of The Priests

- **The Census Tax**
- **The Bronze Basin**
- **The Altar of Incense**

#### I. The Census Tax

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 30:11-16.
- Why do you think God gave such strict rules in connection to taking a census? How would the warnings of this passage discourage a king (or leader) from taking a census?
- How would taking a census tempt the leaders of Israel to trust in their numbers instead of the Lord?
- In what ways are we tempted to trust in numbers and earthly means instead of trusting in the Lord?
- What does it mean that God values faithfulness over results? How are we tempted to only look at results?
- **Read and discuss** 1 Chronicles 21:1-17 in relation to Exodus 30:11-16.

#### II. The Bronze Basin

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 30:17-21.
- What is the purpose of the bronze basin, and why was it placed at the entrance of the tent?

- **Read and discuss** the following quote.
  - *Before a priest went inside the Tent of Meeting to perform his sacred duties, he had to stop at the bronze basin. It was located in front of the tent to remind the priests to wash before entering. They washed their hands and their feet, the body parts they used to serve God. The priest also had to wash up before they made any kind of sacrifice on the great bronze altar. As the priests came and went, they were always stopping at the basin for cleansing.*
- **Read and discuss** Psalm 24:3-4. How does having clean hands symbolize a pure heart? Why must we have clean hands and a pure heart to stand in the holy place?
- **Read and discuss** John 13:1-10.
  - Why did Jesus wash the disciples feet if they were already clean?
  - How did the feet washing symbolize the continuous washing that happens after salvation? Read 1 John 1:9-10 to help answer this question.
- How does the ordinance of commission help sanctify the church body?
- What is the difference between Justification and Sanctification? What is the danger in mixing these two doctrines up?
  - **Read and discuss** Philippians 2:12-13. Is this passage saying we are saved by works? Why or why not?
  - **Read and discuss** Ephesians 2:8-9. If we are saved by grace, does that mean we can live anyway we want? Explain your answer.
  - How would you explain the difference between justification and sanctification to a new believer?

### III. The Golden Altar for Incense

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 30:1-10.
- What are some practical reasons for having this altar?
- How did the tabernacle engage all 5 senses? Why do you think God designed it that way?
- Why do you think God was so specific on the incenses that were to be used? (verses 34-38)
- **Read and discuss** Leviticus 10:1-3.

- What did the incenses offered on the golden altar symbolize? Read the following verses to help answer this question.
  - Psalm 141:1-2
  - Revelation 5:8
  - Revelation 8:3-4
- Why is prayer so essential for a believer?
- How is prayer a privilege that is often neglected?
- **Read and discuss** Exodus 30:7. What does the burning of incense teach us about God's expectation on prayer and the believer's prayer life?
- Do you have a consistent prayer life? Why or why not?
  - What are some practical things you can do to create a consistent prayer life?
  - What are some practical things you can do to create an atmosphere of prayer within your home?
- **Read and discuss** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Why are the commands within these verses so hard to obey?
- How are the golden altar and the bronze altar related? What are some things that connect them together?
- How do these two altars teach us the connection between prayer and sacrifice? Read Hebrews 10:19-20 and Hebrews 4:16 to help answer this question.
- If Christ's sacrificial death is connected to God hearing our prayers, does that mean God does not hear the prayers of non-believers? Explain your answer.

### **Final Prayer**

- *We bless you for your preservation of us during the past night; and we desire to acknowledge again our dependence upon you, and our unfeigned obligations toward you. We thank you for having poured down upon us so many blessings of this life; we thank you for our health and strength; for our food and dress; and for all the comforts and conveniences which we enjoy. But, above all, we praise you for the inestimable privilege of being born in a land of religious light and knowledge. For these, and for all your various and great mercies, we would render unto you a gratitude, not with our lips only, but with our lives; by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you, in holiness and righteousness, all our days on earth. - Henry Thornton*

Announcements:

## Memorial Service for Nora Bishop

**Friday, March 3 | 3pm | Worship Center**

The service was postponed last week due to inclement weather. We invite you to join us this coming Friday as we celebrate the life of Nora Bishop together with her friends and family. Light refreshments to follow the service.

## Love & Respect Biblical Marriage Class

**Sundays, starting March 26 | 8:50am | Room 201**

**Thursdays, starting March 23 | 6:30pm | Smith's Home**

Married or not, doing great or struggling, this class is for you! Come learn how to thrive in marriage based on God's instructions in Ephesians 5:33. Join us for a Sunday morning class led by John and Karen Johnson or the Thursday class led and hosted by Richard and Anna Smith at their home in Stallion Springs (no childcare for the Thursday night class). The class is only \$25 per couple and includes two workbooks. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon. Hope to see you there! Sign up online at [cobc.churchcenter.com/registrations](http://cobc.churchcenter.com/registrations).