The Tent of Meeting has taught us many ways of how God wants to interact with us. As a family, see if you can recount all the pieces of the Tabernacle we have learned about so far:
The Gate – The Altar – The Laver – The Table of Showbread – The Golden Lampstand

Discuss what are some new things that you learned from these pieces? What was new or surprised you? What was your favorite piece?

Today we are learning about The Altar of Incense!
The Altar of Incense is a wooden box covered in pure gold. Inside of it sits coals from the Altar of sacrifices and incense. God gave His people special instructions to make something called incense. Incense is a special material made to burn that gives off a smell and smoke. The Priests were to burn incense twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening. Incense represents our prayers to God.

Find a candle in your house and light it.

―Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.‖ – Psalm 141:2 MEV

Let’s look at the candle to help us see similarities to the Altar of Incense with our prayers.

Discuss these questions as a family. Pause to experience and think after each question:
- When you light the candle, what happens to the room?
- Does the air change? Can you see more?
- Can you smell the candle more before you light it or after?
- Can you see the candle smell in the air?

Our prayers to God are like that. Although we may not always be able to tangibly see them, they change the room! Every person in the room is affected by it, just like your prayers. When we pray, people can experience the benefit of our prayers in their lives. God does too and loves it!

Our prayer impacts the world around us!

One story that shows how powerful our prayers are is a battle that Joshua and the Israelites faced in the Old Testament.

Read Joshua 10:5-14 together
- How many kings were against Joshua? (5)
- What does v. 12 say that Joshua did when they went into battle? (He prayed to God. The verse says Joshua “spoke to the LORD” which is what we do when we pray)
- What happened when Joshua prayed? (v. 13-14; God listened to Joshua’s prayer and the sun stood still for a whole day until God’s people could win the battle!)
GOD HEARS YOUR PRAYERS.
- Did you know that God hears your prayers when you talk to Him? He does!
- Did you know how powerful your prayers were?
- Is it hard to believe sometimes?

How do we know that God hears our prayers? Discuss together as a family. Think of some verses that talk about this.

The Bible says this: “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” – 1 John 5:14

God listens because He cares for you. Jesus said, “No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” John 15:15

God has said that you are His friend, and He wants to share His secrets with you so that you can help Him help others. One way we do that is through prayer! We pray for people and we listen to what God wants to share with us about them or that situation too so we can pray what God says!

When someone is your friend, do you care about them? Do you care what they think? What makes them happy or sad?

God cares about your heart & what you are thinking too! He hopes you share those things with Him like a best friend!
- What kind of things do you share with your friends?
- Can you share those things with God?

OUR PRAYERS CHANGE THE WORLD.
When we pray what’s on God’s heart, He listens and acts.

Make a “Prayer Journal”
Use the print out attached to get you started or get your own special journal for family prayers.

Come up with prayers as a family & for each person to share:
Is it help with school, a pet, finances, knowing Jesus deeper, a family member or friend? Write it down.
As a family, think of a specific person to pray for. Reach out and ask them specifically what you can be praying for. Write down their prayer request in your Prayer Journal.

Put your Prayer Journal somewhere everyone can see it. Remember to pray for all the things you wrote down when you see it through the week. Pray in your secret place or as a family at family meals. Check back every week to see how God answered. Write down how God answers!
MY WORLD:

This month, I will pray for the country of _____________________________.
These are some of the things I will pray about:

MY COMMUNITY:

This is what I will pray for my community:

MY FRIENDS:

This month I will pray for _________________.
These are the things I will pray about:

MY FAMILY:

This month I will pray for:

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT GOD THIS MONTH:

WHAT I AM THANKFUL FOR THIS MONTH:

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