

Your Nose Knows

The topic The aroma of Christ

The object A collection of objects with intense or distinctive smells—deodorant, aftershave or perfume, scented candles, blue cheese, spoiled food, toothpaste, freshly mowed grass, dirty socks, kerosene, burnt toast, coffee beans, etc.

The lesson Conduct a contest among several kids to see who can identify the most smells—or give everyone a sniff and an opportunity to guess.



Odors can be either subtle or poignant, sensuous or repulsive. Our sense of smell brings us information and leaves us with specific impressions about a food, a room, a sweater, a body.

The apostle Paul reminds us that Christians have a

fragrance that tells passersby that we have a relationship with Christ, and that—like a hungry person who smells the aroma of soup and steak and pie coming from the kitchen—unbelievers will be drawn to Christ through us.

The Word 2 Corinthians 2:14-15

Discussion starters

1. What should a Christian smell like—spiritually speaking, that is?
2. Do you think most people consider the **aroma of Christians to be attractive or repugnant? Why?**
3. Why do you think that, when some Christians leave the room, everyone's holding their noses (for example, 2 Corinthians 2:17)?

Life changers

1. Most individuals use deodorant and scents—colognes or perfumes—to either enhance or camouflage their natural body scents. At what times do you worry about those around you smelling the natural fragrance of Christ in you—and so you camouflage the smell?
2. Which of the following statements describes your own personal fragrance:
 - ☐ Frankly, I don't think anyone can smell anything
 - ☐ Like roadkill
 - ☐ A little sour
 - ☐ Minty fresh
 - ☐ Too strong at times