

“What is that smell!?”

Big Idea:

We all smell and as we “Bask In The Son” we will begin to “smell” like Jesus. We will begin to have the same aroma Jesus had, the same aroma that made Him so different.

Bible Verse(s):

II Corinthians 2:15-16

Galatians 5:22-23

Intro:

- Have kids ID certain smells sprayed on paper or on my hand.
- I have looked on Google for a bunch of pictures of things with either a strong smell or a unique smell.
- Show slide show- End with “Sewer Man” picture
- What do you think this guy smells like as he walks home from work each day? Do you think people notice him as he walks by? What do you think they’ll notice first if he enters a crowded room?
- I want to talk about how we “smell”. I’ll explain more about what I mean in a moment but first let me tell you about my lifeguarding days at the YMCA
- STORY #1 YMCA LADY

SLIDE OK, so when I was in high school I used to work at the local YMCA as a lifeguard. I was 15 when I started working there and I was a lifeguard until last year when my certifications expired.

I used to have the weekday morning shift at the YMCA. The YMCA would open for swimmers and workout freaks at 5:30AM so I needed to be at the YMCA before then to open the pool and get the doors unlocked. I had figured it out that I could wake up at 5:17AM, drive the 2 blocks to the Y, open the doors, and get the pool lane lines in before 5:30AM! I was crazy fast.

Anyway, if any of you have been in an indoor pool at 5:30AM you’ll know that the smell of chlorine and warm water is VERY strong. I used to sit in the lifeguard chair and eat my half dozen donuts with sweat dripping off my nose!

Around 9AM a certain older woman would come walking into the pool area. She would wear a bandana, slippers, and bring no towel. I can still remember her even though it has been almost 8 years since I worked at the YMCA because this lady was different. She was different because I could smell her before I could see her! I would even smell her for the next 10 minutes after she walked by!!

She had this old lady perfume on and it smelled SOOOOO bad!!! It was so bad that the moment I caught a whiff of her I would either walk away or hold my breath! She had some serious smellage going on!!! I think she used the old lady

version of AXE! That lady could be identified by her smell even if you did not see her around. This lady was known for her smell. I would overhear other swimmers talking about her extra strong smell (100% of the time it was not in a flattering way either). The point is this, whether good or bad, this woman was known and identified by her smell.

SLIDE II Cor. 2:15 say, “For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;”

What do you smell like? Our smell is not something you can sense with your nose but rather it is a smell that people see in us as they watch us interact with life. Our smell is the way we live and what we are living for. We all smell. The important thing is to know what you smell like and what others smell when they're around you. I smell, Marie smells, Tim smells, Angela smells, Marcus smells, Lindsay Adams smells, and Josh Roberts smells. It is a smell that we can not help but carry and it is a smell that sets us apart from other people. According to this verse it does not matter who we are with, we ALWAYS have our smell. Our smell comes from our relationship with Jesus and our desire to be more like Him.

BIG IDEA:

As we “Bask In The Son” we will begin to “smell” like Jesus. We will begin to have the same aroma Jesus had, the same aroma that made Him so different.

OK, so you are probably asking, “What are you talking about? You keep saying the word “smell”, but what does that mean?” Great questions.

SLIDE Galatians 5:22-23 mention some things that we should smell like. The reason we should smell like these things is because we are to be pursuing a life that resembles Jesus' life. The smells are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

How different would you be if you were able to put off a smell that demonstrated you were a person who loved, lived a life of joy, showed patience, were kind to those who were not kind to you, etc... As we begin to do these things we begin to “smell” like Jesus. People should notice something different about a person who is letting Jesus lead their life.

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As we “Bask In The Son” we will begin to “smell” like Jesus. We will begin to have the same aroma Jesus had, the same aroma that made Him so different.

I heard a cool story about a lady at McDonalds.

STORY #2 HOMELESS MEN AT MCDONALDS

SLIDE “I am a mother of three (ages 14, 12, 3) and have recently completed my college degree. The last class I had to take was Sociology. The teacher was

absolutely inspiring with the qualities that I wish every human being had been graced with. Her last project of the term was called "Smile". The class was asked to go out and smile at three people and document their reaction.

I am a very friendly person and always smile at everyone and say hello anyway.....so, I thought, this would be a piece of cake (literally).

Soon after we were assigned the project, my husband, youngest son, and I went out to McDonalds, one crisp March morning. It was just our way of sharing special play time with our son.

We were standing in line, waiting to be served, when all of a sudden everyone around us began to back away, and then even my husband did. I did not move an inch...an overwhelming feeling of panic welled up inside of me as I turned to see why they had moved.

As I turned around I smelled a horrible "dirty body" smell...and there standing behind me were two poor homeless men. As I looked down at the short gentleman, close to me, he was "smiling" ...his beautiful sky blue eyes searching for acceptance.

He said, "Good day" as he counted the few coins he had been clutching. The second man fumbled with his hands as he stood behind his friend. I realized the second man was mentally deficient and the blue eyed gentle man was his salvation. I held my tears.....as I stood there with them.

The young lady at the counter asked him what they wanted. He said, "Coffee is all Miss" because that was all they could afford (to sit in the restaurant and warm up they had to buy something...they just wanted to be warm).

Then I really felt it...the compulsion was so great I almost reached out and embraced the little man with the blue eyes. That is when I noticed all eyes in the restaurant were set on me...judging my every action. I smiled and asked the young lady behind the counter to give me two more breakfast meals on a separate tray. I then walked around the corner to the table that the men had chosen as a resting spot.

I put the tray on the table and laid my hand on the blue eyed gentleman's cold hand. He looked up at me, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Thank you". I leaned over, began to pat his hand.

In my own way I had touched the people at McDonalds, my husband, son, instructor, and every soul that shared the classroom on the last night I spent as a college student sharing my story."

SLIDE That is what it looks like to "smell like Jesus". That lady was different than everyone else because she stepped up and helped them, fed them, and cared

for them when everyone else was backing away from them. Ask the kids to ID the fruits she showed as she helped the homeless men. There was something different about the way she reacted than the way the other people in the restaurant responded. Her “smell” was kindness, love, gentleness; all of which were seen in what she did.

SLIDE What do you “smell” like? Do people notice anything different about you at all? When you are in a room do people notice your presence? I’m not saying you need to be crazy and get every one’s attention, but do people know you are someone who is joyful, faithful, patient, gentle, kind, etc...?

When you are with your close friends can they “smell” God on you? Do they know you are letting God lead and direct your life? The lady from the YMCA had a very distinct smell. You knew it was her by her smell. Hopefully you can smell Jesus on us as staff. Hopefully you smell love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, self-control, faithfulness, and gentleness.

Everyone has a smell. What is your smell? Is it positive or negative or not even noticeable? Again, it is not a smell that can be noticed with your nose, but rather it is seen as people watch us live our lives. They notice we are different in the way we treat people, interact with people, and the joy we have in life. What is your smell?

I want to give you an opportunity to talk with God about during the song and prayer. If you are not letting God lead and direct your life and you want to know more about what that looks like than come talk to me, Marie, Angela, Tim, or Marcus. We would love to tell you more about living your life for God.

If you have asked Jesus to lead your life but you are not living a life that gives off the smells mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 then talk with God about that. Ask Him to forgive you and ask Him to give you the strength to change.

If you don’t believe in God that still does not mean you don’t have a smell. I want you to think about the smell you’re giving off to those around you. It is something that draws people to you or something that sends them away? Are you someone who backs away from others or are you someone who steps forward and helps others?

I want to give you all a small tube of sunblock. Each time you look at it or each time you smell sunblock I want you to remember you are giving off a smell. The question I want you to think about is “What kind of smell am I giving off?” Are you someone who is imitating Jesus or are you giving off a different smell that isn’t any different than everyone else in the world?

SLIDE SONG- Casting Crowns “Love them like Jesus”

PRAYER