



Does My Locker Stink?

Leader Prep

The passage we are examining comes at the beginning of the second letter to the Corinthians by the apostle Paul. In the first letter to the Corinthians, he addressed many doctrinal errors that the church was experiencing. In the second letter, Paul is quick to express his joy in their obedience to Christ.

Upon sharing with the Corinthian church the suffering he had endured for the sake of the gospel, we come to our passage. Even in the hardship that Paul faced, he knew that in sharing the good news of salvation, he was triumphant in Christ.

The picture painted for us in this passage is that of a victory parade by a conquering army. Often in ancient victory parades, there were great amounts of incense burned and carried along the route. The celebration reached all of the senses. Paul writes that the good news of Jesus results in a much greater victory march. He has sent His followers into the world to declare His victory over sin and death. Instead of incense being burned, we as followers of Christ are his aroma, letting everyone know the great news. To those who already know Christ, our presence is one of encouragement, or "life leading to life." To those who do not know Him, our message is that without Christ, they will die and be forever separated from Him. In this way we are the "scent of death leading to death." And yet the sweet aroma we want them to enjoy is the gift of eternal life found in Christ!

Since students spend so much of their days at school, they must realize that is the place where God has led them, so they might too spread the aroma of Christ, as well. They should encourage those who follow Christ and seek to reach those who don't. In other words, the parade route leads right down the halls of their school.

Teaching Aims

Students will understand that God has given them a mission field in their schools and they are to give off the aroma of Christ everywhere they go.

Bible Verses

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

Writer

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What Do You Smell Like?

Gather six to eight items that have distinct smells (i.e. an orange, perfume, cinnamon, etc.). Blindfold two volunteers and have them compete to see who can correctly identify the most items solely by smell.

Ask, "How easy is it to identify something when you can only smell it?" (Wait for a response.)

Then ask, "What smells do you really like? What smells do you really not like?" (Expect a variety of responses.)

Tell the students, "Scientists tell us that smell is one of our most powerful senses. Certain smells can bring back good or bad memories or even bring comfort. When we look at Scripture, we find that Christians are supposed to have a distinct smell as well." Ask, "According to these verses, what different 'smells' do Christians have?"

The Fragrance of Christ

Have students open their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 2:14-16. Have a volunteer read the passage aloud.

Ask, "According to these verses, what different 'smells' do Christians have?"

Take a few moments and give the students some background on this passage you learned from the Leader Background section of the lesson.

Tell the students, "Verse 14 states that God has put 'us on display in Christ' in every place where we go."

Ask, "What places do you go every week?" (Any response will do.)

"What places do you spend most of your time?" (Expect answers such as school or home.)

"Why do you think God may have put you in those unique places?" (To share Christ)

Tell the students, "For most teenagers, a majority of their time is spent either at home or at school. It is in these places that you have the greatest opportunity to 'spread the aroma of Christ.' As a student, your campus is a mission field to which God has assigned you to make an impact for Him. We can make this impact on both Christians and non-Christians.

"God has given us the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:19). He has chosen us, His people, to take the good news of Jesus wherever He may lead us. Our lives are to be a demonstration of the grace of God at work. When we are around others who follow Jesus, our lives should encourage them to live more committed to Christ. When we are around those who do not know Jesus, our lives and words should take every opportunity to point them to amazing offer of the cross."

"For you, God has led you somewhere that you spend many hours a day—your school. He has led you through the doors and now desires for your life to display the victory of Jesus for everyone present. You will probably have Christian friends who like being around you because they are encouraged by your commitment to Christ. You will also, more than likely, come in contact every day with those who do not know Jesus. Some will not like your relationship with Christ because it goes against what they believe and makes them feel uncomfortable. We must remember our desire is that they come to know Jesus, so they too will love and enjoy the 'scent of Christ.'"

Ask, "Why is it important for you to be an encouragement to other Christians around you at school?" (Allow a variety of responses. Make sure someone says that it makes it easier to fulfill our Christian commitments when other Christians encourage us.)

"What are some specific ways you can encourage other Christians who go to your school?" (Expect a variety of responses.)

"Why is it important for you to be the 'aroma of Christ' at your school for those who do not believe?" (So they might someday believe in Christ)

"What are some specific ways you can share your faith with those who do not believe?" (Allow a variety of responses.)



Give each student an index card. On the first side, have them write the names of two Christians they know at their school. After everyone has finished, take a few moments and have everyone pray for the people they wrote down.

Have the students turn their cards over. Have them write the names of two people in their school who do not have a relationship with Christ. After everyone has finished, take a few moments and have everyone pray for the people they wrote down.

Challenge students to take these cards and place them where they will be seen everyday, such as on a mirror or on the dashboard of their car. When they see they card, they should pray that God would make them the smell of Christ to all four of the people they listed.

End by praying for your students as they seek to reach their campus for Christ.

Provided by the Mission Education Team of the North American Mission Board.

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