

January 11, 2021

Sniff

**Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17**



"Oh, no!" Mom looked up when she heard the wail from upstairs.

"I bet Diane broke something," Tim said at once. "She's always dropping things!"

"Diane," Mom called. "What's the problem?" There was no reply, so Mom headed up the stairs with Tim galloping along behind. As they reached the top, Diane appeared at Mom's bedroom door.

"Phew!" Tim exclaimed, sniffing the air. "What's that smell?"

Diane's eyes filled with tears. "I was dusting your room like you asked me to do, Mom, and when I was moving things on the dresser, my hand slipped and knocked over your perfume—that bottle Aunt Carol gave you," she explained. "It didn't break, but I guess it wasn't shut tight, and some spilled out. I'm sorry, Mom. I didn't mean to do it."

"Never mind," Mom said gently. "It was an accident."

Tim held his nose. "Ugh! Perfume! You smell," he told Diane.

"I do not!" Diane replied indignantly.

"Sniff! Sniff! You do smell," her brother insisted. "Everything smells!"

Mom laughed. "Tim's right," she agreed.

"I guess so," Diane admitted, "but it's a nice smell—not a bad one."

"I hope both you kids will always spread a nice, pleasing fragrance," Mom said.

Tim looked horrified. "What? Me smell like this? No way!"

Mom laughed. "I'm not talking about the aroma of perfume, Tim," she said. "I'm talking about the aroma of Christ."

Diane and Tim looked puzzled, so Mom explained. "As Christians, we're called to fill our world with a sweet-smelling fragrance—not with designer-label perfumes, but with the love of Jesus." The kids' eyes lit with understanding as they listened.

Mom continued patiently. "When we're helpful, kind to others, forgiving, loving—in other words, when we live the way Jesus wants us to—we become channels of his love; we become the 'fragrance' of Christ to those around us."

**HOW ABOUT YOU?**

What kind of aroma are you spreading at home, in your school, at the mall, or on the playground? Are you spreading a sweet-smelling aroma by what you do and say? Although some people may criticize and turn away, to others you may be the fragrance that leads them to Christ.

**Scripture Memory Verse:**

**"We are to God the aroma of Christ  
among those who are being saved and  
those who are perishing."**

**2 Corinthians 2:15**

**SPREAD JESUS' AROMA**