

Sensing Jesus - Smell

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John 12:1-3

April 14, 2019

**Small Group Discussion Questions**

**Lent affords us the opportunity to consider how we will encounter Jesus ourselves**

We can engage our senses in the gospels.

\*What are some smells – good or bad – that have stuck with you?

\*What memories are associated with a scent?

**Read and discuss John 12:1-3 (NTE)**

*<sup>12</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany. Lazarus was there, the man he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> So they made a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was among the company at table with him.*

*<sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a pound of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She anointed Jesus' feet with it, and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the smell of the perfume.*

**Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 (NTE)**

*<sup>14</sup> But thanks be to God – the God who always leads us in his triumphal procession in the Messiah, and through us reveals everywhere the sweet smell of knowing him. <sup>15</sup> We are the Messiah's fragrance before God, you see, to those who are being saved and to those who are being lost. <sup>16</sup> To the latter, it's a smell which comes from death and leads to death; but to the former it's the smell of life which leads to life.*

\*What are these passages saying to you?

\*What part does the sense of smell play here?

**The Gospel message stinks**

Sometimes what smells like death is actually bringing new life.

\*How has grace come to you in unexpected or initially unwanted ways?

\*What has seemed like death but has brought new life?

\*What does the Gospel smell like to you?

**The touch of Jesus that provides life. The seeing Jesus through eyes of faith. The taste of the wine from his own hands. The hearing of his voice. And the aroma of his death and life again.**

\*How have you been able to engage your senses this Lenten season?

\*What have you learned from your experiences?