

ParentPause

Encouragement for Parents of Preschoolers

August/September



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We can tell our children about Jesus, but there's so much more we can do to help them understand his love!

Can you believe summer is ending? This season can be full of many different smells: the scent of cut grass, food on the grill, and sidewalk chalk being ground into the cement by tiny artists. Each of these smells can cause you to remember special moments. Can you think back to some of your favorite moments this summer?

Our relationship with Jesus carries a "smell" as well. In 2 Corinthians 2:14-16, Paul talks about how we are the aroma of Christ — how the scent of knowing Jesus is something we carry into every relationship we have. When people are with us and they love Jesus, it is a smell of life. When people have rejected Jesus, it is the smell of death to them. Have you experienced this in your own faith journey?

Throughout parenting, we want our relationship with Jesus to be a scent of life to our children. We want them to feel His incredible love, and to experience His kindness through us. We want them to feel His gentleness when they fail, and His peace when they are afraid. What scent (other than the smell of sweaty and tired children) is flowing through your home? What ways are your kids experiencing Jesus through you? When they get older will those memories of the scent of Jesus feel like life to them?

As you move through the next few weeks, take the time to build experiences with your children to help them smell Jesus. Bake something with them and if they spill the flour, be patient and kind. Go outside and weed the garden together and if they accidentally pull up a flower, show them grace. When a thunderstorm comes up and if they feel afraid, hold them close and help them experience the comfort that God gives us when we are scared.

And someday they may connect some of these smells to these moments with you, and the way that they experienced Jesus' patience and kindness through you!



FUN WAYS TO EXPLORE SCENTS WITH YOUR CHILD!

1. Go on a field trip to a spice store. Explore the different spices that are available and talk about what those smells remind them of that they may have smelled before.
2. Make a fun recipe of scented playdough by following a homemade playdough recipe and adding a cooking extract, such as vanilla or peppermint. Then enjoy an extended time together of playing with it and making memories.
3. Make a sensory bin by coloring a cup or two of rice. Add two to three pumps of hand sanitizer and mix it with a glob of food coloring. Then mix it with the rice. It will act as a binder and will create a smooth coating of food coloring on the rice. Mix in a tablespoon of pumpkin pie spice. Use some scoops to play together in the bin and create some happy memories with that scent.

nature walk BINGO

Hi parents! You can use a walk outside to teach your kids about God!

Use this fun activity as a way to remind your child that God makes beautiful things!

CHALLENGE: Invite your child to go on a walk with you. All you need to bring is this paper and something to write with. Tell your child that the challenge is to mark the boxes as each item is found. When you get five in a row, you win!

BONUS CHALLENGE: Discuss with your child, how all of the things you saw were created by God. Work together on remembering this Bible verse: ... God ... made the world and everything in it ... Acts 17:24 (ESV) When the verse is said perfectly, reward yourselves with a fun treat!

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|  TWIG |  RABBIT |  WATER |  PINE CONE |  ANT |
|  ROCK |  HILL |  YELLOW FLOWER |  LARGE LEAF |  BIRD |
|  SMALL LEAVES |  WORM | FREE SPACE |  SPIDER |  GRASS |
|  SUN |  WHITE FLOWER |  SQUIRREL |  BUTTERFLY |  CLOUD |
|  DIRT |  TREE |  FLY |  BUSH |  PINK FLOWER |

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