



## MESSAGE TO CONVERSATION GUIDE

The Sniff Test | Community | Pastor Nate Williams

1. We called this series *Community* because we're going to be talking about what it means to be in community together as believers. When you think about the word "community" what comes to mind?
2. In the opening story, Nate shared about the day he met his wife Jen and how he remembered more so than anything how she smelled. Is there a strong memory that you have that is tied to a specific smell?
3. This message was about hearing constructive criticism from the people around us that love us and making a change in our lives because of it. Do you have anyone in your life that offers you constructive criticism? Do you have anyone in your life that offering criticism that is not constructive?
4. For you, what makes listening to criticism from a friend in regards to your life or faith challenging to hear? Also, what are some roadblocks that would make it difficult to receive what this friend is telling you?
5. Read Mark 14:1-9. This is the story of the woman (Mary) pouring perfume on Jesus. Why were the disciples upset about what she did? What reason did Jesus say she did this?
6. Nate gave us The Sniff Test to see if there are areas of your life that might need to be addressed. Each letter in the word "Sniff" stands for an area of our lives. **S** - What are you saying/talking about? **N** - What are your needs? **I** - What are you Ignoring in your life right now? **F** - Do you need to forgive someone? A friend? A family member? Someone at the church? **F** - What are you spending your finances on? If you were to "sniff" yourself right now, what area do you feel like needs some work?
7. In Proverbs 27:6 ESV to says "*Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*" What do you think this means?
8. In *Luke 6:45* we read "*A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*" Using only one word, what do you find yourself talking about the most in your life?
9. If a close friend/family member were to tell you something about yourself that doesn't "smell" quite right, what would be the first step you could take to make that area "smell" better?

10. *But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. (2 Cor. 2:14-15).* Why do you think Paul chose to use the analogy of smell when talking about spreading the knowledge of Jesus?
11. If you had to choose one word to describe the aroma your life is currently giving off, what would it be?
12. How did this message encourage or show you the need for community and people in our lives that will give us feedback on how we are presenting ourselves to the world?