

FOR THE SAKE OF LIFE

[2 Corinthians 2:12-17](#)

¹² When I came to the city of [Troas](#) to preach the Good News of Christ, the Lord opened a door of opportunity for me. ¹³ But I had no peace of mind because my dear brother Titus hadn't yet arrived with a report from you. So I said good-bye and went on to Macedonia to find him.

¹⁴ But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. ¹⁵ Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this? ¹⁷ You see, we are not like the many hucksters^(a) who preach for personal profit. We preach the word of God with sincerity and with Christ's authority, knowing that God is watching us.

WE GO WHERE THE LORD LEADS (2 Corinthians 2:12-13)

- Reference  [Acts 16:6-12](#)
- Resist Comparison to Others

WE SMELL WHEREVER WE GO (2 Corinthians 2:14-16a)

Your "Spiritual Aroma" is:

- Pleasing to God
- Appealing to seekers
- Disgusting to opposers

WE SPEAK WITH SINCERITY NOT SUPERIORITY (2 Corinthians 2:16b-17)

- We never apologize for the simple, saving truth of the gospel.
- We humbly speak from God, for God and before God.

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

MISSIONS SUNDAY 2023

Message: For The Sake Of Life

Speaker: Brian Wiebe

Date: November 5, 2023




Connect (30min)

*For *Connect* and *Prayer*, you may want to break into two groups, or groups of 3-4 people to enhance participation.

1. BUCKET LIST

- a. A “Bucket List” is a list of the experiences or achievements that a person hopes to have or accomplish during their lifetime. A bucket list is an itemized list of goals people want to accomplish before they “kick the bucket.”
- b. If you have (or were to have) a “Bucket List” – what are 3 things that would be on your list?

2. MONTHLY CHECK-IN


- a.  [Romans 12:12, 15](#) – *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*
Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn.
- b. Using a scale of 1-10 (Poor-Excellent) how is your **a. Physical Health** **b. Mental Health** **c. Spiritual Health?**
- c. In response to your sharing – Give Thanks to God and Pray for one another.

Message Discussion (45min)

1. MISSION POSSIBLE

- a. What initially comes to mind when you hear the words “MISSIONS” or “MISSIONARIES”?
- b. Have you ever thought of yourself as a missionary for Jesus? Explain.
- c. [Acts 1:8](#) records these words from Jesus for His Church:
“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
Applying this to our lives and location... how have you experienced or participated in missions (living and sharing the Gospel) in the following locations:
> *Chilliwack (Jerusalem), Canada (Judea), N. America (Samaria), Globally (the Ends of the Earth)?*
- d. If you were to live and serve Jesus anywhere else in the world (besides Chilliwack) for a year or more, where would you choose to go? Where do you think God might call/lead you to go, and why?

2. FOR THE SAKE OF LIFE

- a. **Share your feedback on *Sunday’s Message*.**
What connected with you, encouraged you, or challenged you? What did you learn?
- b.  **READ [2 Corinthians 2:12-17](#).**
 - i. What did you learn about God?
 - ii. What did you learn about the author, Paul? What do you learn about Greco-Roman culture?
 - iii. What did you learn about Missions?

We Go Where the Lord Leads – We Smell Wherever We Go – We Speak with Sincerity Not Superiority

3. FRAGRANCE

- a. What is one of your favorite *fragrances* to wear?
What are some of the “best smells” in life? List as many as you can as a group in 1min.
What are some of the “worst smells” in life? List as many as you can as a group in 1min.
- b. Why didn’t Paul take advantage of the “open door of opportunity” in Troas? ([2 Cor. 2:12-13](#))
What would you have done in his sandals? (For more back-story - see [Acts 16:6-12](#))
- c. Learning to hear and trust the leading of the Holy Spirit takes practice. How are you growing in this?
Can you think of any ways you’ve experienced the Holy Spirit leading you?
- d. In [v.15](#), the Apostle Paul says that *our life in Christ is like a fragrance*.
Why do you think Paul uses this metaphor?
How is this a good way of illustrating the presence of Jesus in our lives?
- e. Who is someone you know who carries the fragrance of Christ, and how is this true of them?
- f. How do we keep that “fragrance of Christ” fresh and vibrant in our own lives?
- g. Paul says he spoke the gospel with “sincerity”, and not for personal profit.
What does a sincere witness look like?
- h. Why is it hard to speak up for the Gospel, and how can we be more open with its fragrance?
- i. How do you feel about speaking, as Brian said on Sunday, “*from God, for God, and before God?*”

Prayer (15min)

1. Who is one person in your life who you want to be drawn to the “fragrance of Christ?” Pray for them together.
2. Pray for God’s Mission in Chilliwack, Canada, and Globally.

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