



# The Grove

BIBLE CHAPEL

• TAMPA •

LIFEGROUP RESOURCES: 03.24.24 Pulpit Curriculum

## The Triumph of the Aroma of Christ

Main Passage: 2 Cor 2:14-17

1) Christ's Triumphant Victory Parade (v 14): Paul found himself in Macedonia, urgently looking for Titus to see how Corinth received the critical letter. He was vexed in his spirit and downcast (2 Cor 1:8-9; 7:6), yet he fixed his eyes upon the victory found in Christ. This triumphal procession was reminiscent of the Roman Triumph, the greatest honor a Roman General could receive – a once in a lifetime procession filling the city with an aroma of victory in the streets. The soldiers would follow in the procession shouting repeatedly, "Triumph!"

A. To what degree is your life shouting the triumph of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. In your own struggles or sin, what most prevents you from fixing your eyes on Christ? What is a Bible word for that? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Christ's Triumph Through the Aroma of Bold Proclamation (v 15): If our life is to spread the proclamation of Christ, our lives and our words should be speaking the truth of Christ – diffusing the aroma of the knowledge of Him. The Gospel message is that only Jesus Christ can accomplish redemption, with us repenting in humility; He does all the work and receives all the glory. Our need is a fundamental blessing that it would bring us to Jesus Christ – to some it is life and to some it is death.

### Opportunity for Gospel Progress

- Gate – start a conversation
- Path – a place to build a conversation to spiritual matters, linking normal life to God
- Bridge – crossing the great divide talking about the glory of God and of the exclusivity of the gospel.

C. What does it mean to diffuse/spread the aroma of Christ everywhere (words/lives)? What can mute this diffusion? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Are you personally prepared to diffuse the aroma of Christ? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E. What are some ways you can turn routine discussions into opportunity for gospel progress? Share an example. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# The Grove

BIBLE CHAPEL

• TAMPA •

- 3) Christ's Triumph in the Aroma Outcomes (v 15-16): Our response to the Gospel, God's offer to redeem us, has two very distinct outcomes that either save or condemn. It's appointed unto man to die once, and then comes the judgement (Heb 9:27). God is seeking to solve the problem of our sin and rebellion. Submission to Christ is a black and white issue in which our modern culture prefers to deal in shades of gray. If you have not believed upon Christ (the Person, work and words of the only hope for our soul), the wrath of God abides upon you (Jn 3:36).
- F. How does your heart receive the message that we are a mess and in rebellion to God? Do you anticipate embracing Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- G. What are some indications that someone is continuing to rely on themselves and believes they are not in need of fixing? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Christ's Triumph Despite our Inadequacy: Apart from the work of God in our lives, we are not adequate for these things. If you accept the weakness, God brings strength. (2 Cor 12:9, 10). The world is scared to death of being inadequate, and put off by admitting inadequacy. Paul acknowledges his inadequacy, but that God can do it through yielded and obedient vessels. The believer realizes that Christ is strong in us when we embrace and lean into our weakness.
- H. Where do you turn when you sense your inadequacy? What are your inadequacies and what does the word of God say about it (Bible word)? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- I. Who knows your inadequacies? Prayerfully consider sharing with Lifegroup or a Christian friend. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Christ's Triumph through the Text (v 17): We find sufficiency in the glorious Word of God. We are not adequate, but God's Word is the way to be emboldened and strengthened in Christ. God is our adequacy to commission us, our speech, and capacity to be on mission for Christ. We speak by Him, using the agency of the Word to conduct the ministry and carry out the mission (2 Cor 3:4-6). When we put on Christ, the Father receives the pleasing smell of our fragrant sacrifices.
- J. How are you regularly encouraged and strengthened through the Word? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- K. In your evangelism, do you rely more on your own striving, or trusting that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_