

Kidmin Lesson for *Mommy's Favorite Smell*

By Brock Eastman and Elsie Mae Eastman

Big Idea: I will thank God for creating my sense of smell.

Lesson Materials

1. Book: *Mommy's Favorite Smell* by Brock Eastman and Elsie Mae Eastman
2. Smelling Bags*: Add drops of an essential oil or extract to a cotton ball and place it in a numbered Ziploc bag. Repeat the process until you have 5-8 bags with different smells, such as: vanilla, peppermint, lavender, orange, cinnamon, or lemon. For the activity, you want mostly "good" smells, but could throw in a "stinky" smell, like vinegar. If you are managing a large group or wide age range, create two or three identical sets of the smelling bags and place each set at a different station.
3. Small blank papers, pencils, and a "voting hat."

Procedure

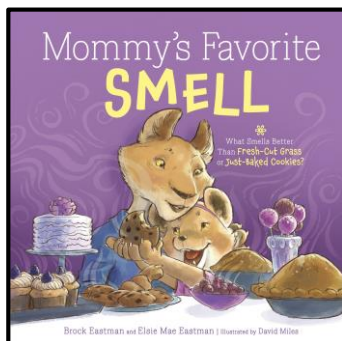
1. Attention Getter: Play "favorite smell." Using the smelling bags, students smell each bag (in any order), write the number of the bag that contains their favorite smell, and place their vote in the voting hat. If you have older students, teams could compete to see which group correctly guesses the most smells.
2. Ask and Discuss:
 - a. *Raise your hands if your favorite smell was bag number one. Number two? (etc.)*
 - b. Identify the scents in each bag. Articulate the favorite and least favorite smell.
4. Set Purpose for Reading the Story: "We are going to read a story called *Mommy's Favorite Smell*. In the story, Little Lion is trying to guess her Mom's favorite smell. When I am finished reading, I want you to name some of the smells in the book and tell me what Mommy's favorite smell was.
5. Read: *Mommy's Favorite Smell*
6. Discuss: Name some of the smells in the book. What was Mommy's favorite smell? Why?

Bible Verse Connection

1. Bible Verse: Read Psalm 139:14
2. Ask: *Psalm 139:14 says we are wonderfully made. What are some "wonderful" things about your sense of smell?* (It helps us enjoy and make sense of the world around us, enhances our taste, triggers memories, and protects us—like helping us stay away from skunks, smoke, or spoiled foods.)
3. Ask: What would life be like without your sense of smell? Why did different people prefer different scents? (We are wonderful, unique creations.)

Make it Personal

Psalm 139:14 talks about praising God for the wonderful way He made you. Have you ever thanked God for creating your sense of smell? (Prayer time)



Follow Up Activities

1. Smell and Snack: Have students take a bite of a snack with their noses plugged, then without. Discuss how God created our taste to work with our smell.
2. Make a "No-Sew" Sachet for Mom: See directions in post.
3. Bake "Ashley's amazing Chocolate Chip Cookies," using the recipe on the last page of *Mommy's Favorite Smell*.

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*Some children are sensitive to certain smells. Just as many churches post "allergy warnings" for snacks, you may want to post a "scent activity" notice so students may avoid scents that bother them.