

Scented Alabaster Flask

This activity introduces children to a variety of fragrances and concludes with them making a scented “alabaster” flask from white play dough.



1. What kinds of things smell good? (cookies, flowers, fruit, spices, perfume, etc.)
2. We're going to smell some things and try to guess what they are. Have children close their eyes. As a group, smell one thing at a time. Hide each item in a paper bag so it's difficult to peek. Encourage the children to guess what each sample is.
3. The Lord loves pleasing smells. Do you know that when we do what the Lord teaches, our lives smell pleasant to Him! Heaven smells wonderful because everyone there loves the Lord and does what He teaches.
4. The woman in our story was sorry for mistakes she had made. She came to the Lord to ask Him for forgiveness—to say she was sorry. She brought a beautiful alabaster flask of sweet smelling oil to anoint the Lord's feet.
5. Alabaster is a soft white stone that is easy to carve into beautiful shapes. We are going to make a flask that is white, like alabaster, and smells wonderful, like the fragrant oil the woman brought.
6. Give each child a small ball of play dough. *Optional:* sprinkle a little gold or silver glitter where children are working. The children can roll the play dough in it, mixing it into the clay to add sparkle to the finished project.
7. Show the children how to form pinch or coil “flasks.”
8. As each child finishes a flask, put a few drops of spice or fragrance inside the pot. When we smell the lovely fragrance we can imagine becoming a wonderful fragrance before the Lord by doing His commandments.

Play Dough Recipe video directions at www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-play-dough/

Ingredients: 1 cup flour, ½ cup salt, 1 tablespoon cream of tartar, 1 cup water
Put ingredients in saucepan. Stir until mixture is smooth with no lumps. Heat, stirring constantly, until a ball is formed. Turn play dough out onto a table and knead until cooled. Store in an air-tight container. Will keep for several months.

Materials Needed

samples of things that smell good, e.g. vanilla, cinnamon, banana, apple, orange, lavender, perfume; brown paper bags for hiding scented objects; commercial or home-made play dough (recipe below); small amount of fragrant oil, or cinnamon or vanilla to add to finished projects
optional: white, silver or gold glitter

Prepare in Advance

Make or purchase play dough.
Optional: purchase white, silver or gold glitter. Gather fragrant things and something to put them in so they can be smelled but not seen.

New Church Concept Fragrance

The fragrances of aromatic substances correspond to qualities connected with spiritual love, or with charity and faith. In heaven angels experience the most fragrant aromas corresponding to their perceptions arising from their love. Consequently we read in many places in the Word that Jehovah smelled a sweet odor. See *Apocalypse Revealed* 394