

Advice

Biblical Material: Proverbs 27.9

‘Perfume smells good and can cheer you up, but good advice from a friend is even better.’

You will need:

- Some bottles of perfume / perfumed products.
- Advice columns from suitable children’s magazines (optional).

Introduction

Ask pupils to come to the front and choose a product to describe, identifying its perfume by the label. For example, it might be a flower perfume such as ‘Rose’ or be called something like ‘Sea Spray’. Talk about perfume and other perfumed products. Ask the pupils why people buy them and when people wear them. Do not remove the lids or ask the children to smell them.

Core Material

Read the Biblical Material. At first sight this looks like a very strange proverb. What have friendship and perfume got to do with each other? In Bible times, perfume often stood for joy. People wore it when they had special occasions to celebrate. We might have a shower and use some perfumed products when we are

going somewhere special and have something to celebrate. The Bible is saying that it is good to have something special to cheer you up, but it is even better to have a friend who can give you good advice in times of trouble.

Some people look in magazines for advice. If you have a suitable child’s magazine read a little of the letters page or show the advice column, but choose any letters/ advice you read with care. People have to be careful about the advice they read: some of it may be good, but it needs checking with trustworthy people. Note: some magazines for the top of the primary age range contain advice columns.

Having a trustworthy friend who will give you good advice is valuable, but it is hard being that type of friend. Such a friendship involves being responsible. It also involves knowing when the situation, on which you are being asked to give advice, is too hard, or too serious for you to deal with and you need to go to a more experienced person.

Prayer/Reflection

Ask pupils to think quietly about times their friends have asked them for advice.

Lord, help us to be responsible friends. Give us the wisdom to know when we can give advice and when we need to ask for help. We thank you that we can ask you for help and guidance.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.

