

Lake Highlands Church

Sunday Assembly Reflection – 10/12/14

Hello Saints,

This is the second week of sending the “Sunday Assembly Reflections” to help you process what is shared in assembly and grow as a disciple of Jesus. If you are in a Lifegroup, you will be given an opportunity to discuss them in small groups when you meet together. If you are not in a Lifegroup, we hope you will use these questions to help you connect with and apply what you've heard.

REFLECTION:

Today, we heard some inspiring testimonies from members of our church family about how they are reaching out to the ones the world has written off (the homeless), or to the ones who have written off the church (the New Agers). It was a great follow-up to recent lessons about our call to show love in action to those in need. In Jim's comments about New Age philosophy, he listed four of the beliefs:

- Everyone needs spirituality
- God is a higher power within me
- God is not Creator or Redeemer
- My self has ALL spiritual authority

Jim said the first point is the bridge to reaching the New Age group: “Everyone needs spirituality.” If we learn to drop religious language, we have a perfect opportunity to talk with others about spiritual issues. As I listened, I had to reconsider some old thinking of mine that unless I used the words God, Jesus or the Bible in my conversations about eternal life, I was not being bold enough, and probably letting God down. What I realized is that this thinking has actually made me avoid spiritual discussions with a New Age type person because I feared coming across either as offensive for my boldness, or for being a bad Christian for not being bold enough. What I received today was permission to use the language that people can hear in order to meet them where they are.

QUESTIONS:

1. In your groups, share how you feel about engaging in conversations with people who are offended by the church. How did today's testimonies change those views?
2. Discuss some words that the unchurched might consider to be a turn-off, and then brainstorm about ways to use questions or non-churchy words to better engage others.
3. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you His heart for the lost, and to bring opportunities to engage in loving “spiritual” conversations with them.

This is not an "outreach program;" it is a way of living in response to the love and mercy God has for us. Know that you are loved today, right where you are, not where you wish you were.