

# Sunday Assembly Reflection

**WRITTEN BY:** Robin Russell

**REFLECTION:** Jim called the church to be ministers of peace in the world, but said we first need to be grounded in the reality that Jesus is Lord of the whole world and therefore we are to submit ourselves to His authority and purposes. The words of Jesus sometimes sound strange because we are immersed in a culture that encourages us to listen instead to the little voice inside us that tells us we can live however we want, and that we have the right and the power to have it our way. We instinctively want to defend our own rights, but Jesus calls us to voluntarily give up our “rights” and go on to forgive one another and extend peace. Being called to submit to Jesus’ authority is countercultural indeed. But knowing that He is good helps me trust Him, even though His words sound strange to my American ears!

I was encouraged by Jim’s analogy that prayer, the church and Scripture are “heavenly headphones” that help immerse us in the truth that Jesus rules. I need the wisdom that comes from time alone with God, my church family and the Big Story of Scripture to understand that when I live under Jesus’ authority, some things are not really up for discussion. A recent example is the question of whether we should assist the millions of refugees who are setting out on foot to escape terrorism in their own country. “God is concerned for those who haven’t heard the heavenly music,” Jim said. “We are called to share Christ’s peace with all those who do not share our faith. That’s what He did, and He’s the boss. We do the peace.”

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS:** *Please pick one of the questions below to answer in your small groups; more if you have time. Be sure to pray for each other at the end.*

1. Which of the “heavenly headphones” would help you better internalize the authority of Jesus in your life at home or at work (i.e., prayer, or responsive speech to what God is doing in your life, deepening relationships with your church family, or submitting yourself to the authority of first-century eyewitnesses as recorded in Scripture)?
2. When and how will you set aside time this week for the “dangerously powerful” practice of solitude so that you can strategize with God about how the kingdom can come in your life?
3. Jim said that fighting takes two, so don’t do it. With whom do you need to give up the fight and instead share Christ’s peace?

Pray for one another, that we at Lake Highlands Church will be known as a people submitted to Jesus who practice His peace for the sake of the kingdom.

Sunday Assembly Reflection is written by Lake Highlands Church members for Lifegroups and individuals to receive more from the spoken Sunday Assembly message through reflection and quick discussion. It is published on the first three Monday’s of the month. If you are interested in knowing more about a Lifegroup or have a question about the reflection, please contact Donjalea Crane, [donjalea@lakehighlandschurch.org](mailto:donjalea@lakehighlandschurch.org) or contact one of our Lifegroup leaders by going to [lakehighlandschurch.org/Lifegroup-listings](http://lakehighlandschurch.org/Lifegroup-listings).

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