

Sunday Assembly Reflection

WRITTEN BY: Robin Russell

REFLECTION: Jim continued his focus on the big picture of what we believe, as described by Gospel, Story, Creed and Mission. He exhorted us to stay focused on announcing the Good News: that Jesus has abolished death and brought immortality to life. Too often, it becomes about us and our advice instead.

Preaching becomes a lecture on how to be good. That is not sustainable! But, that's what happens. When the Gospel is not exalted, we exalt ourselves. The average church today cannot be honest about the sins of its people out of fear it will somehow "ruin" Jesus' reputation. Jim said that confessing our sins actually glorifies Jesus as the Redeemer and Savior.

The Gospel also gives us access to the Father and his guaranteed love for us. It can be hard for people who did not grow up with an intimate, warm relationship with earthly parents – or who maybe suffered abuse at their unredeemed hands – to fully trust God as a good Father. My parents were sometimes judgmental and often distant. It was a hit and miss relationship. But, Jesus shows me what God is really like. It was a glorious reminder for me to hear again that we can trust God because his commitment to us is inexhaustible, his generosity is unfailing and he guarantees there is always a home for me. That's hard to receive sometimes, and I don't think I'm alone in that. But, the relentless love of Jesus keeps turning me around. I need to stop "playing footsie" with that deep wellspring of living waters and accept that I need to jump in way over my head if I want to really live.

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.*

- What has been your attitude about confessing your sins? Will you prepare for lifegroup this week by being ready to confess your sins so that Jesus is lifted up, not you?
- Where in your life do you struggle to fully trust God – i.e. finances, future decisions, family crises? Will you ask Jesus and your lifegroup to help point you back to Jesus?

Pray for one another to be able to receive the Good News deep down into your marrow, and then tell others who also need this message of hope and love about what Jesus has done.

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 or contact one of our Lifegroup leaders by going to lakehighlandschurch.org/Lifegroup-listings.

Lake Highlands Church Sunday Assembly Sermons are published weekly as a podcast. They are available on iTunes and lakehighlandschurch.org.