

## Sunday Assembly Reflection

**WRITTEN BY:** Julie Tipps

**REFLECTION:** Jim Reynolds challenged the church to start walking in our calling and destiny to be a blessing to the world. Too often the church tries to defend and protect itself against the world, instead of reaching out to those very ones we don't think could ever be our friends. He mentioned the parable in Luke 14 about God inviting everyone to the banquet party, and how that is the model for us as well. Our faith is a welcoming, party-throwing faith. We came to faith because we were invited by the Host to be a guest at His banquet, and we continue to be His guests week after week, year after year. And at some point, the guests need to also become hosts and extend the invitation to others. So, why don't we invite people to church more often?

For me, it is the fear of offending someone who disagrees with my beliefs. Jim told a story of a woman who said she disagreed with everything he believed about the end times. Instead of trying to defend his beliefs, Jim told her that it's okay because we are all going to disagree on some things, so now what? So, now what? When I realize there's a difference of opinion with someone, I typically either get defensive or shut down. I never think to say, "that's okay, so now what?" But I love how that helps keeps the conversation going.

Jim then compared life inside the fortress versus on the bridge and urged us all to spend more time on the bridge. Thankfully, the pressure is not on us to build the bridge because Jesus IS the bridge. He has already made friends with the world, and our part is just to hang out on the bridge and connect with people where they are, and invite them to the banquet. It's what we are called to do.

**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.*

- Who is someone at your work, your school, or another acquaintance you have "protected" yourself from getting to know better? Think of one way this month you could hang out on the Jesus bridge with that person - could be sending a note, inviting them to get together, an offer to help with something, or just asking about their weekend.
- Like the Israelites, have you been so focused on smaller issues that you lost sight of the bigger issues? To what bigger issue do you think God is calling you?
- Jim said that "Jesus is Lord over everything we're afraid of." When you hear that, what came to your mind first? Thank Jesus for bringing it to mind, and tell Him out loud that you give him that fear and receive faith to trust Him as Lord over it.

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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