

## Sunday Assembly Reflection

**WRITTEN BY:** Robin Russell

**REFLECTION:** David Beller challenged the church to connect more effectively with millennials at church as we transition to a new youth minister. It will take communicating in the language of young people, which means older adults need to listen first in any conversation. Young people today have unique concerns and fears. They grew up hearing about multiple mass killings, having exposure to ubiquitous sex (online and in person), being traumatized by 9/11 and seeing our country at war as long as they've lived. They live in fear of acquiring overwhelming school loan debt, a decimated environment and a political scene that is a joke. David described the spiritual needs of youth as vision (to find the place where God's love intersects with the world's pain), discipleship (putting wheels to the vision) and ownership (becoming a stakeholder in seeing God's places take root in all earthly places).

Some of the challenges of youth ministry that David described sound universal: many of us struggle with what feels like the grinding meaningless of life and with how to put knowledge into action. Today's youth, however, have an additional challenge surrounding social media, which has led to a hunger for real intimacy and a fear that their generation has been "dumbed down." I liked how David called us older adults (Gen X, Baby Boomers and older) to become "ambassadors" for young people to help them transition into owning their faith. For me, that takes overcoming a fear of not being "cool" enough (i.e., too old) to effectively engage these young people. That's my baggage, not theirs! They long for relationship! Knowing the pain experienced by this generation motivates me to want to overcome my fears and better engage with a young person one-on-one.

**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.*

- David used the example of a young Native-American boy who spent the day hearing stories of his people from an old Kiowa squaw. At day's end, he said, "I left her house a Kiowa." With whom might you pass along your own stories of the faith?
- Many fears of millennials are due to the mismanagement of previous generations, i.e. environment, economy, political atmosphere. Does it make you feel defensive to hear their fears and concerns? How might you more effectively listen to them?

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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