

## Sunday Assembly Reflection

**WRITTEN BY:** Robin Russell

**REFLECTION:** Jim challenged the church to share God's unrelenting love story with the world by impacting the people we work with. Too many Christians, he said, get caught up in culture wars instead of being ambassadors of peace. We think we have to "take a stand" against sin instead of simply befriending sinners. We organize a Bible study at work for Christians instead of hanging out with co-workers who might scare or repulse us. But God calls us to do the things that Jesus did, to get out and invite the world in. The church is God's love letter to the world. We are the outreach program! We need to act like the Savior's kids.

Jim told the story of the friendship between Christian Scientist Francis Collins and Atheist Christopher Hitchens, which was in stark contrast to the response of some other Christians, who celebrated when they heard Hitchens was diagnosed with cancer. Collins showed up faithfully at Hitchens' bedside, offering treatment recommendations as well as the kindness and grace of God. Hitchens later described Collins as a "selfless Christian physician" who offered the "quiet service of love." That challenged me because Collins may well have had to overcome initial feelings of repulsion or fear toward Hitchens' renowned hostility and mockery of Christians. I find the possibility of mockery a painful and inhibiting factor when I'm around non-believers who find plenty to ridicule about the stereotypical Christian response toward cultural changes. I want to do something fresh and different, and need to pray for a connecting point with these folks so that I can move past the fear that keeps me invisible!

**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.*

- Jim used the example of going the extra mile, saying if he were asked to bake a cake for a same-sex couple, he'd bake two and deliver them personally! Who in your workplace needs to experience the grace of God from you? How might you make that happen this week?
- Has anyone ever come to Lake Highlands Church at your invitation? If not, why not? What holds you back from extending the invitation?

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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