

## Reconnect and Reform Worksheet

### Interview with Jake Milder

1. (3:08) Jake addressed results from his research which show that young people in this moment of history are asking three main questions “Who am I?” (Identity), “Where do I fit?” (Belonging) and “What is my purpose?”
  - Spend some time reflecting on the young people in your own ministry context.  
How might this season of pandemic response have impacted those three formational questions?
  
2. (14:40) Read 2 Cor 5:17-21 and spend some time discussing as a group, what does it look like for your ministry to be a ministry of reconciliation?
  - How can you use this time of coming back together after COVID, not just to regather, but to reconcile to each other? What might be needed? What does that look like?
  - OPTIONAL ACTIVITY (break into groups. Give a few young people to each group) Get some paper and draw a stick figure in the middle, make that image a real person you know in your ministry. Begin to map out who are the influences in that young person’s life. Of those influences, who are the people that you can work with/influence to support that young person through this transitional period?
  
3. (18:40) Jake believes that children and youth ministries are usually better equipped at dealing with change than other church ministries. But he encourages us to consider the needs of young people that will NEVER change.
  - What are some of those things that young people will always need from the church no matter what the circumstances?
  
4. (20:15) Jake also says that, again and again, his research showed that a young person’s family will be the most significant influence in their life.
  - What are the needs of parents and families right now?
  - What could the church be doing to support them?
  
5. (21:00) Because we are so used to things changing at the moment, people are open to change like they have never been before.
  - So how could you make the most of that opportunity? What could you try?

6. (26:52) Jake identifies that we can often make a lot of assumptions around the wants and needs of young people in the church when implementing strategies and programs.
  - Have you taken time to talk to and listen to parents, children and young people coming out of COVID to find out what it is they need?
  - If you were going to ask some questions, what might you need to ask? How can you phrase those questions in a positive way rather than negative?
  
7. (35:28) Spend some time discussing with your ministry team how they are feeling coming out of COVID. Are they worn down? Are they rearing and ready for change? Or somewhere in between?
  - How might you as a team listen to the collective emotion of the group? What might you need to do in response to that emotion?
  
8. (38:20) What is the hope and the dream that you have had for ministry in this season?
  - What could be some strategies/action points to implement that dream?