

FAMILY REUNION INSTITUTE'S

STICKY REUNION SITUATION

REUNION DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

July 2019

The Situation:

We like what you're saying about incorporating discussions with our young people, especially the males, into the reunion. What's the best way to do that, especially if those conversations have never been had at a reunion? And, what's the best way to get everybody on board?

The Fix:



Doug Harris

I suggest a Facebook post be made announcing the coming reunion and plans to have discussions with younger family members about topics of interest to them. There should be a starter list of 3-4 topics, and invite the young people to add to the list via Facebook (or other social media) several weeks before the reunion. This way discussions and suggestions can take place ahead of time, people will be able to make input, take ownership of the session, and think about the topics beforehand. The topics need not be complicated or deep. For example:

- What are the things about young people that older folks just don't get?
- What current reunion activities do you enjoy most?
- What new things could the reunion planners do to make it more relevant to young people? What would you enjoy?
- Why don't more young people attend and/or enjoy our reunion?
- Name one young male and one young female family member who would be a good leader or moderator of the discussion.
- Name an older family member that you would like to hear more from--someone you think has a lot of wisdom to share.

Adding a topic or two based on current events will help the family explore individual points of view (especially generationally); help probe attitudes, beliefs and feelings; and create meaningful dialogue.
