



Care Ministry Spiritual Practice Guide - Week 4 June 19-25

Hospitality. It sounds kind of fancy, but its meaning is simple, bare-bones, pure, and entirely holy - you are invited. There is room for you here, next to me. I receive you with gladness and offer my truest self. Here, we draw nearer to each other, seeking refuge from the crush of life. Here we are safe. We are warm. We are free.

Knowing that, why does something so vital to our souls often feel scary and uncertain? What is it about the come-as-you-are-spirit of hospitality that makes us doubt our ability to do just that? We can blame social media with its impulse to stage perfection and crop around the mess. We can point a finger at the individualistic bent of our modern age. I'm sure we all have a story or two to share about a time we put ourselves on the line in the name of welcome and walked away lonelier than ever. Rejection is a chronic injury, difficult to shake, once felt. We are so afraid our vulnerability won't be held with gentle hands...

...Despite all the mess and unpredictability, I'm positive it is worth taking some risks and making some mistakes to cultivate a consistent rhythm of welcome and belonging...

The Ministry of Ordinary Places, Shannan Martin

Read

Romans 12:9-13

Reflect

This reading talks about hospitality. Hospitality doesn't always mean inviting someone into your home, but rather just making room for and caring for everyone.

Over the past couple of weeks, we've had the opportunity to intentionally care for people in our church family, but this doesn't always come easily.

What is holding you back from caring for others? What makes you hesitant to reach out?
Ask God to reveal the areas you're struggling in. Ask God to help you change your thinking in the areas you are hesitant.

What steps can you take to start caring for others more intentionally?
What will you do this week to reach out to someone in our church family?

