



Care Ministry Spiritual Practice Guide - Week 3

June 12-18

Airports are a place to build patience. Few things amp up my anxiety more than sitting on the runway a few feet short of the gate while I miss a tight connection one gate away. Or waiting for the last plane out before the storm, then having it canceled at midnight. Airports are a place where babies cry and teenagers bump into us with roller bags and all comfortable seats have been removed.

I used to dread airports for all these reasons, but when I started thinking of them as opportunities to give away love, my attitude changed. Now when I interact with a customer-service agent who isn't moving as fast as I want them to, I think about how many people have probably been rude to them that day, and I try to make them smile. When I'm seated next to a screaming baby on a flight, I imagine how tired the parents must feel, and I do my part to make the kid smile.

When I think someone ought to be more loving, it's usually me. The longer I follow Jesus, the more I'm trying to see through the eyes of other people. Don't get me wrong. It's not always easy, and I've got a lot to learn. We come into contact with people every day who need to encounter love. They need to know that whatever they're going through at the moment, they don't have to go it alone. One word, one kind and understanding nod in the direction of someone struggling, can change everything. When we choose to step in the shoes of people having a difficult time, we usually find they're a lot like us. They just need to know they're loved and valued and that it's going to be okay. Don't leave it to someone else to do the loving for you.

What one word can you share with someone today to show you love them?

Live In Grace - Walk In Love, Bob Goff

Read

Ephesians 4:2 & 32

Reflect

Is there someone in our church family you have been unkind to or short with? Ask that person for forgiveness.

Is there someone who has been unkind or short with you? Make sure your response to them is loving. Pray for that person - that they will sense God's love for them and know how valued they are in whatever struggles they are facing.

How can you show love to someone this week? Bob suggests sharing one word with someone today - ask God to give you an opportunity to do that today and throughout this week.