

Lessons of Love at the Airport!

*“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10*

I arrived at my departure gate 40-minutes early with a good book and a hot drink to tide me over until my flight was called. As the time neared for departure the waiting area filled with all my flight companions: families with small children, friends flying together, people flying single, business men busy on their laptops or cell phones. Amid the chatter and overhead speaker announcing flights I heard several people talking “looks like it’s going to be a long flight with those kids aboard!” and “Why do I always get the flight with the wailing babies!?” “Why doesn’t that women control her children?” - I found myself filled with ‘righteous indignation or irritation’ but before I turned around to ... well... at the very least cast the two thoughtless individuals a dirty look ... I realized that I too had similar thoughts... long sigh ... “this is not going to be a quiet flight”

In contrast to those ‘thoughtless individuals’ *and* to myself love in action is patient and kind. Love does not ‘sigh’ with irritation. It behaves with humility and doesn’t focus exclusively on personal agenda or achievements. Love radiates patience, not just waiting quietly in the background but being fully engaged and present in the moment. Being fully engaged and present reminds us that God has placed us where we are, at this very moment, for me in a crowded airport with crying children! Ephesians 2:10 tells us, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

I smiled at the mother flying with two little ones and an unspoken message passed between us...“I understand!” To my joy ... yes! I said joy! My seat was right next to the crying babies! I settled in my seat, stowed my Ipad and buckled up ... so that my full attention was on the mother and children. Thank you Lord for the opportunity to practice your love!

Pray for those who irritate you and tax your patience! God’s love can and will prevail! As you work with God’s children this week, find ways to share His love through your gentle and patient smile, your kind words, your looks of joy!

Devotional Activity: Sticky Note

On sticky notes (20 or 30) write “Love is patient”. Post these ‘love notes’ all over your classroom, your car, your home (maybe you will need more than 30!). Each time you read one of your sticky notes SMILE! And shake your head “Yes! Love is patient!”

