



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

## Prayer Service

### Garden of Money

#### **Let us Pray:**

Lord,

You are the sower and reaper, the planter and harvester. We are eager to cultivate the gifts in the fertile soil of hearts open to You.

#### **Reading from Scripture:**

“What do you possess that you have not received?” *1 Cor 4:7*

“The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.”  
*Prov 29:7*

“So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.” *Mt 6: 31-33*

#### **Meditation – How are we cultivating our gifts?**

Am I too attached to my possessions? What would I not be able to walk away from? Do I give ‘from the top’ of my material gifts, or from whatever is left over after I’ve spent on myself? Do I give financial support to local, national, and/or world charities? Have I pondered the value of my non-material blessings as compared to the value of my tangible possessions? Do I trust God to meet all of my needs?

#### **Closing:**

Lord,

The seed that fell on rich ground yielded a harvest of thirty, sixty, or one hundred fold. May the seeds that You have planted in our hearts, in all the gardens where we are called to be good stewards, produce a rich harvest for building up Your Kingdom. Amen.



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## Reflections

*Thoughts on each of the Twelve Gardens within the Four Pillars of Stewardship:  
Prayer, Formation, Hospitality and Service*

### **Garden of Money**

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” *Mt 6: 19, 21*

A central insight of stewardship is that the material ‘possessions’ we have are not really ours. They belong to God, who has entrusted them to us so we can nurture, tend, and share them. How does God want us to use these gifts?

#### **Prayer**

What ways can you thank God for the material blessings you have? Think of times you have asked God for guidance in using your money and resources. How can you nurture and develop your ability to listen to Him and discern His wishes? Consider the prayer forms offered in your Church and ways you may apply them to giving thanks to God for His blessings.

#### **Formation**

How might you be a better steward of your money? Consider ways to utilize appropriate media information/articles to help you budget your money effectively.

#### **Hospitality**

Consider ways to use some of your material and monetary gifts to help others and to give of your ‘first fruits’ to God’s community.

#### **Service**

What can you do to give a proper portion of your gifts to help build up the Kingdom of God and carry out Christ’s mission? Think of what your church asks of you monetarily. How can you find ways to increase giving or begin to give to your church and/or community?