



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

## Prayer Service

### Garden of Relationships

**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:**

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another . . . and overall these, put on love . . .” *Col 3: 12-14*

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

Are there any friends or family members I want to spend more time with? Do I prioritize spending time with the people most important to me? Is there someone to whom I should tell, or tell more often, that I love? Am I willing to take risks to reach out to others? Do I listen carefully when my friends or family are talking to me? Do I have any unresolved issues with a family member or friend that is getting in the way of me loving them, or of them loving me? Do I need to forgive anyone? Do I spend time in prayer for my friends and family members?

**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.



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

## Reflections

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

### **Garden of Relationships**

*“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another . . . and overall these, put on love . . .” Col 3: 12-14*

Our relationships are precious gifts that we do not always nurture as much as we should. Sometimes the people we are closest to are the ones we hurt the most. Cultivating our relationships means being attentive, communicating respectfully, and showing our love and commitment.

#### **Prayer**

What can you do to remember to pray regularly for your family and friends? Think of those with whom you associate/work with. What are some prayers you might offer for them? If you have a difficult relationship with someone, how can you ask God for help? If you have hurt someone, think of a way to ask them and God for forgiveness.

#### **Formation**

What are some classes/reading materials you could incorporate into your life to help you learn to be a better spouse/parent/ child/friend? How can the church help you reconcile a difficult relationship?

#### **Hospitality**

Think of sincere ways to make others feel appreciated. How can you budget your time in order to have more time to spend with your loved ones? How can you be more welcoming to others at church? Can you think of a behavior you could change in order to avoid hurting a relationship?

#### **Service**

Think of family and friends who have moved out of your area. How do you stay in touch? Think of ways your church reaches out to the homebound or those in the hospital. What gifts do you possess that could help your church minister to those people?