



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship Prayer Service

Garden of History

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:

"I will teach you hidden lessons from our past - stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us. We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, . . . so the next generation might know them . . . and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands." *Psalms 78*

Meditation – How are we cultivating our gifts?

Do I stay informed about recent history ('current events') through media sources? Do I take advantage of books, documentaries, and other resources that give us perspective on history? Do I consider history and news critically, and in light of ways I can make a difference in the world? Do I share my personal stories with others, particularly those in newer generations? Do I regularly reflect on my own life and what I have learned from my personal experiences? Do I reflect on my spiritual history and the ways I have experienced Christ throughout my life?

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 History

“We will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord . . . and they in turn will teach their own children . . . ” Psalms 78

God calls us to understand our past and use that knowledge for a better future. The Bible tells of the triumphs and failures of God’s people throughout scriptural history. How can we apply those lessons to our own history? How can we become more aware of the gift that is each new day?

Prayer

Consider where God has positively influenced history. What would you say to this caring God? Consider where Christ has influenced the course of your life. Talk to God about your thankfulness, your fears for the future, your lack of understanding, and your willingness to let God lead the way. If you are challenged with your faith, consider speaking to your priest or to a trusted, faith filled friend.

Formation

What are some areas in history that you would like to learn more about? What can you do to learn more? How can you stay informed about current events? Are there parts of church history would you like to know more about? What resources are available to you?

Hospitality

Can you think of ways to keep up with your own family’s history? What could you do to keep the memories alive for future generations in your family? Do you have interesting personal stories that would benefit others? How can you help pass along the ongoing histories – and resulting lessons - of your church, school and community?

Service

What can you do to encourage others to appreciate history? Think of times you’ve shared a great book, listened to a family elder’s story of older times, or interviewed someone about their history. What benefits did this offer? How can you share that knowledge with others?