



# The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

*Applying Christian Stewardship to Every Area of Our Lives*

## Twelve Gardens of Stewardship for Families

### Reflection for Parent Packets

#### GARDENS OF TECHNOLOGY & THE MIND

We are created in the image of God. Our minds are extraordinary gifts that allow us to have fellowship with our Creator. We know from scripture that God has called us to have a spirit of 'love, power and a sound mind.' We should always be learning, questioning, and thirsting for knowledge, in both our spiritual and temporal worlds. When used responsibly, technology can be very useful toward this purpose.

##### **For Adults**

Do you think of technology as a gift from God, to use for learning and expanding your mind? Consider your use of the internet, television, digital cameras, modern transportation and communication, and all manner of machines. We have much to be grateful for with the technologies of modern life. Consider ways you can use technology to bless others and to help you live your life according to the will of God.

##### **For Children**

You can learn a lot from surfing the net or even watching television and playing some video games. But not everything on the internet, TV or video games is good. Part of becoming mature is learning to recognize the difference between using your time wisely and doing things that are a waste of time, or even harmful. It's smarter to use technology in ways that do you good. Rather than focusing only on entertainment, use your mind for a variety of activities that require thinking. Think of it as being the master of technology, instead of technology being the master of you!

##### **Families Together**

For younger children, explain the benefits and dangers of technology when you set parental controls. For older children, consider discussing your reasoning for TV guidelines or internet controls and listen to their input, as well. You may be surprised by what you learn. If there is disagreement over a popular TV show, consider watching a partial episode with them in order to point out why it is objectionable. Regarding films, helpful Catholic rating sources are available. *The Catholic Northwest Progress* newspaper and the USCCB website are informative and useful in their reviews of all types of films.