



# The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

*Applying Christian Stewardship to Every Area of Our Lives*

## The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship for Families

Being good stewards includes recognizing God's gifts in every area of our lives and using these gifts responsibly, in love and justice toward ourselves as well as toward others. The 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' is a concept which identifies twelve different areas of our everyday life in which we should be mindful of conducting ourselves within the will of God. One of these areas is the Garden of Decisions.

### GARDEN OF DECISIONS

The opportunity to make decisions is a gift from God and a great responsibility. This is our gift of free will. Old Testament scripture shows a long history of God's faith community being called to make decisions – to follow Him and His ways, or to neglect God's ways, choose their own and suffer the consequences of those decisions. Similarly, we in the modern world are also called to make decisions that follow God and not that turn us away from Him.

#### For Adults

Share with the children in your home the ways your faith and your belief in God influences both large and mundane decisions you make – such as choosing which television shows or movies to watch, what purchases to make, how to spend vacation time, how to respond to people in difficult situations, etc.

#### For Children

Can you think of any decisions you made today that are pleasing to God? Did you decide to be kind to somebody today, or to help somebody? When you make a choice, every time you choose to do what you know God wants, you are being a good steward of your decisions.

#### Families Together

Do you use a process to make big decisions as a family, such as praying together or having a family discussion? Do you consult resources such as Consumer Reports or the Church's movie reviews? Consider ways to make big decisions as a family.