



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Prayer Service

Garden of Citizenship

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:

First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving be offered for everyone, for kings and all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. *1 Tim 2: 1-2*

Meditation – How are we cultivating our gifts?

Do I vote in all elections? Do I consider how my faith could influence my political decisions? Have I ever contacted a company to influence their decisions for a better world? Do I inform myself about political issues? Local, city, state, country, and worldwide? What political or social justice issues are most important to me? Have I ever contacted one of my representatives to influence them on any of these issues? Have I considered what small steps I can take to create a more just world? Large steps?

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 Citizenship

“First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving be offered for everyone, for kings and all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity.” 1 Tim 2

We sometimes take for granted the fact that we live in a country in which we can speak our opinions. We have the opportunity to vote and we have people who represent us in our government. We have a tremendous amount of influence when we work together as a city, state, or country. We also can have a surprising level of impact as individuals when we simply pick up a telephone. These are all gifts that we must use wisely.

Prayer

Think of the heavy burden that lies on the leaders of our communities and nation. Budget time to pray that they will lead wisely and in accord with our God. What are some other reasons you should pray for our country? In what ways can your faith help you make political decisions?

Formation

Consider choosing reading materials that will increase your awareness of the political times in which we live. How else can you become more informed about candidates and issues? Are there other activities in your community or your church that can help you make intelligent decisions about government issues? What gifts do you possess that can help you be an informed voter or a leader?

Hospitality

What opportunities exist in your neighborhood that would allow you to be helpful to others in your community? Can you think of ways to use your gifts to help your community government?

Service

In our society, at this time, individual gratification and consumerism are at the forefront of the media. Can you think of ways to participate in your community for the common good? How about for the good of our nation?