

# STEWARDSHIP INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERING

## ALL AGES OPENING

### Welcome

#### All-ages Opening & Prayer Experience

##### ◆ Today's topic – Stewardship

A capital campaign is a great chance to take a look at the pattern of stewardship in our lives—are we people of prayer? What service, what acts of generosity do we offer to our families, our parish community, our neighbors, our broader community? In what ways do we share of our resources—how wisely do we take care of what we have, without going to the extremes of hoarding on one hand, or reckless giving on the other hand.

##### ◆ 2 parts to Stewardship – Gratitude & Response...

Stewardship is a way of life, and it's a crucial part of our journey of discipleship. Stewards are people who take care of resources that in reality, belong to someone else. We recognize that God gives us life, all we have, our freedom, all our giftedness. The first part of our gathering today focuses on gratitude, simply being thankful, even in the midst of other things that might be happening—hard times, misfortune, tragedy. So the first part of stewardship is receiving God's gifts gratefully.

Once we recognize and appreciate all that we have, healthy people thank God in prayer, through serving God and God's people through ministry, through sharing our resources with those who have less. God's promise to us is that He will always be with us as we grow in stewardship—God always keeps his promises. We'll focus on how we respond to God's faithfulness during the second part of our gathering, when we (break into small groups) (explore our activity centers).

##### ◆ Song & slides “Grateful” by Art Garfunkel (or any appropriate song or hymn that helps us express gratitude). Suggestion: Have your youth ministry group or another class create a powerpoint presentation of appropriate pictures to accompany the song you have chosen for the opening.

#### Continue opening experience

##### ◆ Distribute an 11 x 17 piece of paper to each participant.

##### ◆ Draw or write things for which you are grateful – the many things that God gives you, things that you recognize as gifts from God

##### ◆ [Give them 5-7 minutes]

##### ◆ [play “Grateful” or the hymn from the opening while they're working ]

##### ◆ Share what you have drawn with one or two other people at your table.

- ◆ Go tape your drawing on the wall and then prayerfully walk around and look at one another's – to be aware of the many gifts God gives to all of us – “I don't have to have all the talents – there are people in this faith community who can make up for my weaknesses.”
- ◆ [Give them another 5 minutes or so to put theirs up and look at others.]
- ◆ Then, invite participants to be seated.
- ◆ Set tone of prayer if necessary.
- ◆ Invite reader to come up and proclaim the scripture reading (Luke 17:11-19, “The Cleansing of Ten Lepers”)
- ◆ Ask them to reflect silently on the following two questions. Remind participants that they will not be asked to share with others—the questions are for their personal prayer and reflection only.
  1. When am I like the one person who came back and said “Thank you” to Jesus?
  2. In what situations do I act more like the other nine who didn't say “Thank you”?
- ◆ [Give people 2-3 minutes of silence.]
- ◆ [Could play different background music]

Recap and Transition: Where we've been and where we're going

- ◆ We've explored the first part of stewardship – Gratitude
- ◆ Now we'll move into our small-group time and explore our response as stewards

--Age-Specific Groupings--

Sharing what we have learned

- From the youngest to the oldest person here, we each have wisdom and holiness to share.
  - We enrich and support one another's faith.
1. I'll ask you to think about these questions
  2. Share with everyone at your table
  3. I'll ask that (at least) one person from each table share with the whole group – you can steal what someone else said or summarize comments from the table.
- ◆ *First part – “Gratitude”*
  - ◆ *What do I remember?*
  - ◆ *What did I realize?*
  - ◆ *What did I learn?*

- ◆ *Second part – “Response”*
- ◆ *What do I remember?*
- ◆ *What did I realize?*
- ◆ *What did I learn?*

Announcements and Closing

Distribute prayer cards – “A Steward’s Prayer”