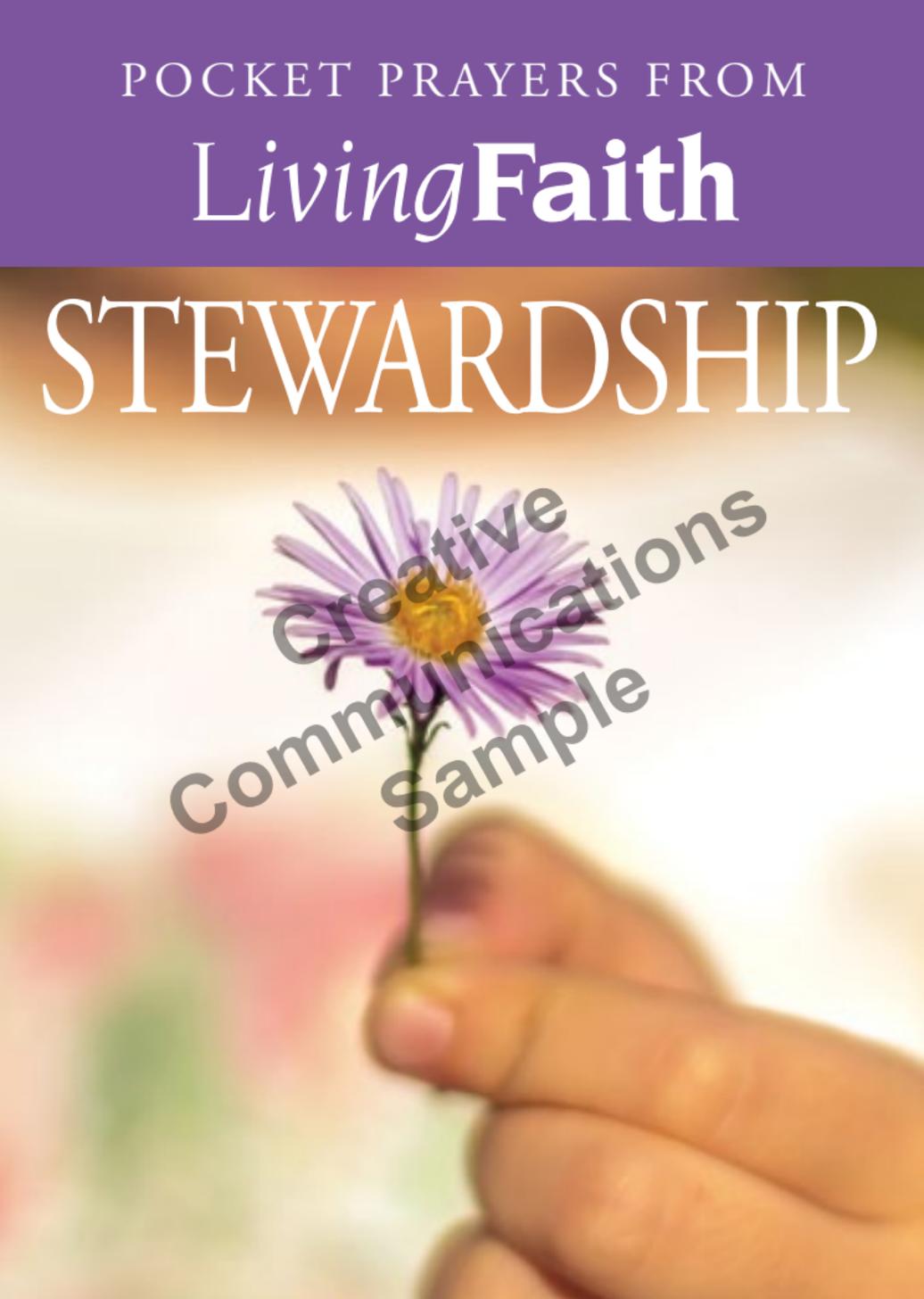


POCKET PRAYERS FROM

*Living***Faith**

STEWARDSHIP

**Creative
Communications
Sample**

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a single purple daisy flower. The flower has a bright yellow center and numerous thin purple petals. The hand is positioned at the bottom right, with fingers gently gripping the stem. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of warm colors, including shades of orange, yellow, and pink, suggesting an outdoor setting with sunlight.

As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

—U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

INTRODUCTION

If I were to use just one word to explain why I have not been a more generous steward it would be “fear.” Fear has kept me from giving more—more of my financial resources, more of my time, more of my talents. I fear not having enough, not saving enough, not having the money for unforeseen expenses. Fear has limited my willingness to be open to God's call to be a prudent steward.

But when we are fearful, it is largely because we are forgetting Scripture, where we are assured over and over to be not afraid. We know that we have a generous God who will care for us. And so I pray for strength. I ask myself, “How can I be a better steward?” I meditate on Scripture passages that tell me how God will reward me for efforts

made in his name. I also consider what Mother Teresa said about the subject: “If you can’t feed 100 people, then feed just one” (Saint Teresa of Kolkata).

I hope that this small resource feeds you in some manner. I hope that you may, in turn, consider feeding someone else. Feed them with your smile, with your hope, with your financial support if you are able. Feed them with your talents and, of course, your prayers.

—Terence Hegarty



Our Gift Back to God

Give and gifts will be given to you.

Luke 6:38

Our personal talents are gifts from God. What we do with them is our gift back to God. Offering our gifts to others, offering our gifts to further the kingdom of God, is stewardship. Stewardship means caring: caring for ourselves, for others, for our world. And we are told that we will benefit by doing so. We owe it to ourselves and to God to be good stewards of all that we have been given. By taking time to pray, to nurture our spiritual life and relationship with God, we are making stewardship a part of our spiritual life, allowing us to discern how we cultivate the gifts that we have been given.

Heavenly Father, you are the creator of all that is good. You have promised to provide us with what we need. Thank you for all the gifts that you have bestowed upon us. Help us recognize our responsibility in caring for those gifts and

in caring for others. I pray for a greater appreciation of the gifts that you shower upon me every day. Please, dear Father, help me to serve as a gift to others. Amen.

Richness and Poverty

For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

Jesus gave everything that he had for all of us. Born into poverty, the King of Kings ultimately allowed himself to have his dignity taken, along with his life. And so, we have become rich. Because of Jesus' great sacrifice, we have the chance to gain a part of a heavenly inheritance. We aren't being asked to give everything, but we are asked to give of ourselves. We are asked to consider that Jesus lives in each one of us, that what harms one, harms us all. We are asked to be responsible by providing for our own necessities, of course. God wants us to spend time keeping ourselves fit, both

Prudent stewardship of the gifts that God has given us is not only our responsibility, it is our joy. The call for Christians to be good stewards is an urging from God for us to both appreciate and share the wonders of our every day lives. And so we pray for the strength to live and love generously, to model Jesus as we care for ourselves, for others and for all of creation.

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