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## Individual Reflection Journal

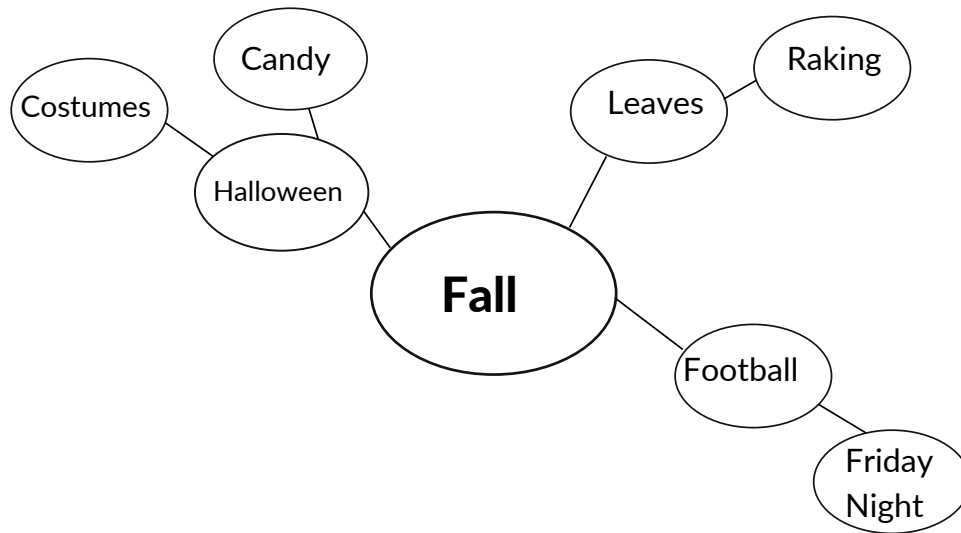


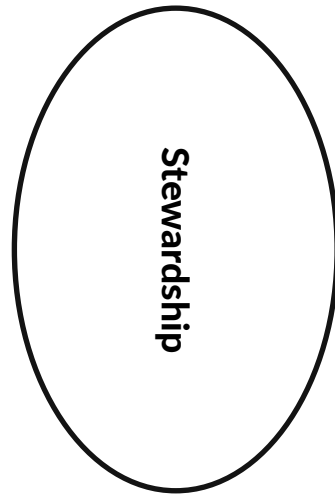
# Story 1: What is Stewardship?

## Individual Reflection: Stewardship Mind Map

A mind map is a brainstorming tool to explore ideas, themes, and connections around a specific topic. Using the example below and the blank mind map, brainstorm about what stewardship is. You are also welcome to brainstorm in list form if you prefer.

Afterwards, compile the brainstorming into the congregational story. Include any patterns, themes, noticings, and questions.





### Individual Reflection

What memories do you have about offering from when you were younger?

How is your congregation cultivating offering memories for the younger ones in your congregation? Or how might you cultivate practices or memories for younger ones?

### Individual Reflection

Who taught you to be generous? What do you remember about that person/people? What did they teach you?

Who are you teaching to be generous? Consider asking younger or newer members, or members of the community how they see the congregation being generous!

### Individual Reflection:

What are stories of stewardship in scripture that stand out to you?

What values and themes do you notice?

### Congregational Story

Compile the stories of stewardship and what values or themes folks notice in those stories. What of those values or themes are present in the congregation? Are there ones you want to live into more?

### Individual Reflection

Think about key characteristics, stories, or ministry priorities of your congregation.

What stories in scripture connect to your congregation?

### Congregational Story

Compile the list of scripture stories and how they are connected to your congregation. Invite folks to determine the top 3 stories and share with the congregation.

### Individual Reflection

Make a list of things you donate or ways you share time or however you are generous. Jot down things your congregation has supported in the past that you are proud of. Next, write down things the congregation is currently doing and supporting as part of your generosity.

### Congregational Story

From your individual lists, create a full list from all participants. Note any often repeated answers or emerging themes. Celebrate with a yay after each answer!



## Story 7: What is the offering for?

### Individual Reflection

Pick out a utility or administrative expense from your congregation's budget or spending plan. Make a list or write about what ministry is able to happen because you pay that expense.

### Congregational Story

From your individual lists and stories, fill out the congregational story guide with a budget item and what ministry happens because of that line.

### Individual Reflection

List out everything (or as much as you can think of) your congregation does or supports. Circle things you think are essential, or core, to who you are as a congregation. But a dash or question mark next to things you might consider not essential (even if you think they matter!) Notice any connections or themes you notice in your core activities.

### Congregational Story

Make a list of things folks named as absolutely essential to who you are as a congregation. Have them share why they are essential and include that in the story too!

### Individual Reflection: Looking Back

Look back at the past 8 story prompts. What do you notice? What have you learned about your story? Your congregation's story? What stories do you want to share with the congregation and beyond?

### Congregational Story

Look back on the past 8 story prompts. Cultivate a list of learnings, wonderings, themes, celebrations, etc. Share key learnings and stories with the whole congregation!