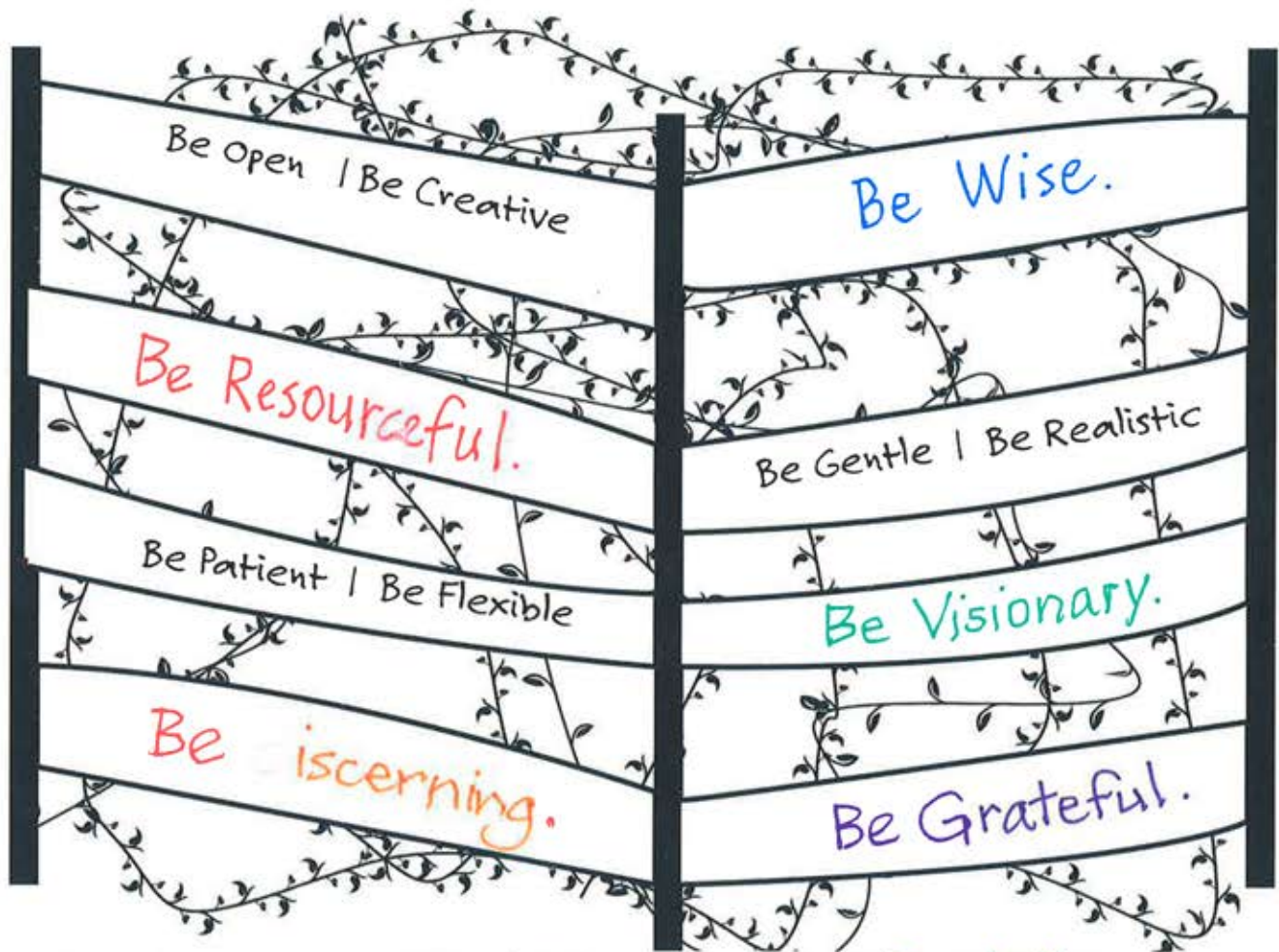


# My Garden Fence

We will be digging deeply into our lives during this series. Before we begin to set out our 'garden plot,' it is important that we set up a 'fence' to provide a space within which to work. This fence provides protection and safety, and allows our garden to flourish. Here are some 'fence posts' you might want to consider before starting the process. Add more ideas on the blank posts in the diagram if you'd like!



*Be Wise. Choose and commit to what is most important. Be selective.*  
*Be Resourceful. Study other Rules. Seek advice/feedback from those who know you well.*  
*Be Visionary. Ask not only what you need, but also what the world needs.*

**Be Open.** Open yourself up to this process. Invite God fully into each idea and question you may have.  
**Be Creative.** Think outside the box. You may have a unique image of what you want your garden to include.  
**Be Gentle.** Be gentle with yourself. There are no right or wrong answers. This is not a competition.  
**Be Realistic.** Simple and honest answers are far more useful than sweeping, idealistic ones.  
**Be Patient.** This is part of a lifelong process. Give yourself time to develop your ideas along the way.  
**Be Flexible.** Be willing to change and modify your ideas as your life moves through different seasons.

*Be Discerning. Identify what is most important; take steps to eliminate time-wasters. Examine your motives for choosing how you spend your time.*

*Be Grateful. Practice gratitude. Let your acts of devotion and service spring from a grateful heart.*