

Pruned for Fruitfulness

SHAPING - GOD'S WORK IN US



YORK STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pruned for Fruitfulness

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SUNDAY 19 October 2025

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John 15:2,5-6

GETTING STARTED

We all like the idea of growing and flourishing, but pruning doesn't sound very inviting. Yet, in John 15, Jesus says that pruning is part of fruitfulness. God isn't punishing us when He trims things back — He's preparing us to grow.

Think of a gardener who cuts back the vine so new shoots can thrive. The Father does the same in our lives, removing what's unhealthy or unhelpful so we can become who He created us to be.

Questions

- When have you felt God “cut back” something in your life for your good?
- Why do you think pruning is often uncomfortable but necessary for growth?

INTO THE WORD

Read John 15:1–6.

Jesus calls Himself the true vine and the Father the gardener. The word for “prune” (Greek *kathairō*) means “to cleanse” or “to lift up.” In ancient vineyards, branches that trailed along the ground were lifted, washed, and tied up so they could bear fruit again.

That’s what God does for us. When our lives become tangled in the dirt of sin, distraction, or fear, He lifts us up, restores us, and calls us back into connection with Him. Fruitfulness comes not from striving but from abiding in Jesus.

Questions

- What does it mean for you to “remain” in Jesus?
- How does understanding pruning as “lifting up” change how you see God’s discipline?

GOING DEEPER

Pruning has purpose. God removes attitudes, habits, or even good things that hold us back. David was corrected through Nathan's rebuke (2 Samuel 12), and Jonah was refined through the storm. Though painful, both moments led to renewal.

When we remain in Christ, the result is transformation — love, joy, peace, and all the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23). It's not about perfection but about connection. As we allow God to shape us, we bear fruit that blesses others and glorifies Him.

Questions

- What fruit do you see growing in your life because you've stayed connected to Jesus?
- What might God be pruning in you right now to make space for more fruit?

PRAY