

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. John 15:1-2 (NIV)

Pruning

Pruning, now that's a word that doesn't sound too inviting. I'm not sure that I like the sound of that at all. Couldn't you do some rearranging? How about some minor modifications or maybe even some tweaks or adjustments? **You still do have a sense of humor.** Well, pruning sounds painful. I'm not a big fan of enduring pain. **I thought you liked pain.** Now, you're the one with the sense of humor. For the record I don't like pain. I don't even like mild discomfort. Please don't tell me your pruning is going to cause me mild discomfort. **I would never do that.** Great, I'm glad to hear that. **No, pruning might cause you some serious real attention getting pain.** Ouch, I did not want to hear that. **It's the truth.** Maybe, I can't handle the truth. Why do I have to go through the pain of pruning? **That is a very good question.**

You have told me that you want to bear an abundance of fruit for my kingdom. You have said that you want to bring glory to my name. Am I right about this? Yes, I want to bear an abundance of fruit for your kingdom. Yes, I want to bring glory to your name. **You have also said that you want to be a bright and shining light for me in this world.** Yes, I want to shine brightly for you in this dark world. I have said all these things. **You have asked me to help you to bear an abundance of fruit for me. You have asked me to help you to bring glory to my name. You have asked me to help you to shine brightly as my witness in the world. Have I not heard these prayers from you?** Yes, you have heard these prayers from me. **You have repeatedly prayed these prayers with quite a bit of passion, isn't that correct?** Yes, that is correct. **Do you expect that I will hear and answer all of these prayers of yours?** Yes, I believe that you will hear and answer these prayers of mine. These prayers are the desire of my heart. I believe it is you that has both given and will grant these desires of my heart. **Yes, you are absolutely right. I have given and will grant the answers to these heart felt prayers of yours.**

I can see where this is headed. **Tell me, what do you see?** Do I have too? **There is that sense of humor of yours again. Yes, tell me.** Pruning is your answer to my prayers. You want me to bear an abundance of fruit, bring glory to your name, and shine like a bright light for you in world. **Yes, I do.** Your pruning is your way to help me to bear an abundance of fruit, bring glory to your name and shine brightly in the world for you. **Yes, it is. Will you allow me to prune your life?** Yes, I will.

Heavenly Father, I give you permission to prune my life so that I can bear even more fruit for you. Don't hesitate to do whatever is necessary to make me more fruitful for you. I love you and want to bear an abundance of fruit for your kingdom and your glory. Amen

So That *Be Even More Fruitful*

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

NIV John 15:1-2

So That *Bear More Fruit*

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

ESV John 15:1-2

So That *Produce Even More*

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.

NLT John 15:1-2

So That *Bear More Fruit*

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

NKJV John 15:1-2

So That *Bear More Fruit*

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

NRSV John 15:1-2

So That *Bear Even More*

"I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more.

MSG John 15:1-2

So That *Bear More And Richer And More Excellent Fruit*

I AM the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit [that stops bearing] He cuts away (trims off, takes away); and He cleanses and repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more and richer and more excellent fruit.

AMP John 15:1-2

So That *Bear Fruit For Larger Crops*

"I am the true Vine, and my Father is the Gardener. He lops off every branch that doesn't produce. And he prunes those branches that bear fruit for even larger crops.

TLB John 15:1-2

So That *Bear More Fruit*

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

NASB John 15:1-2

So That *Produce Even More Fruit*

"I am the true vine; my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that does not produce fruit. And he trims and cleans every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit.

NCV John 15:1-2

Be Even More Fruitful

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

So That – John 15:1-2

In Context: *Read John 15*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. John 15:1-2

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"I am | the true vine, | and | my Father | is | the gardener. | He cuts off | every branch | in me | that bears | no fruit, | while every branch | that does | bear fruit | he prunes | so that | it | will be | even more | fruitful. John 15:1-2

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Heavenly Father, I give you permission to prune my life so that I can bear even more fruit for you. Don't hesitate to do whatever is necessary to make me more fruitful for you. I love you and want to bear an abundance of fruit for your kingdom and your glory. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you been resistant to the pruning that your Heavenly Father wanted to do in your life?

Why is it a foolish mistake to be resistant to the pruning that your Heavenly Father wants to do in your life?

What has your Heavenly Father used as a tool to prune something out of your life?

How are you allowing your Heavenly Father to prune your life so that you can bear even more fruit for Him?

What has your Heavenly Father pruned out of your life so that you could bear even more fruit for Him?

What fruit have you born because your Heavenly Father pruned something out of your life?

What do you think your Heavenly Father would like to prune out of your life right now?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Willingly allow your Heavenly Father to prune your life so that you will be able to bear even more fruit for Him.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that your Heavenly Father will prune your life so that you will be able to bear even more fruit for Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how your life has been pruned so that you can bear more fruit for God.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you allow your Heavenly Father to prune your life so that you will bear even more fruit for Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Heavenly Father, I will allow you to prune my life so that I will be able to bear even more fruit for you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Heavenly Father, how do you want to prune my life so that I can bear even more fruit for you?
