

"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. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. John 15:1-4 (NLT2)

Ouch

Ouch what? Ouch, as in that doesn't feel so good. Ouch, as in that is not a pain free experience. Ouch, as in I would rather not go through that again. **What are you talking about?** I am talking about being pruned. I am talking about you removing things from my life that hinder my ability to bear fruit for you. I am talking about you cutting away dead or less than vibrant stuff, so that I can bear even more fruit for you. None of this work of yours comes without some pain. It isn't always pleasant. And that, I think, is a dramatic understatement on my part. **You are not incorrect. My pruning will never be a pain free experience.** Please don't ever say it will involve some mild discomfort. I have had enough negative experiences with mild discomfort. **That's funny. You have kept your sense of humor, that's good.** Well, I do know that there is nothing mild about mild discomfort. **The truth is that pruning may sometimes hurt more than mild discomfort. Sometimes pruning seem like major surgery.** That comes as no surprise to me. **I would guess not. But let me ask you some questions.** I'm listening. **Would you prefer to remain as you are, where you are? Would you rather not move forward with me? Would it be your desire to level off, and plateau, or even regress? Do you want me to use you in even greater ways? Would you like to bear even more fruit for my kingdom? Would you like to bring even more glory to my name?** Those are some tough questions with huge implications. **That's correct.** Since you put the choice before me in these terms I have only one answer for you. **What's is your answer?** Prune away. Remove anything and everything from my life that will hinder my ability to bear fruit for you. I don't want anything to get in the way of my bearing fruit for your kingdom and bringing glory to your name. That is my answer. That is my hope. That is my prayer. **Good answer. You can be sure that I will prune your life. I will fulfill your hope and answer your pray. I will use you to bear an abundance of fruit for my kingdom. You will bring glory to my name.** Thank you, Heavenly Father.

Heavenly Father, I know I have not been a fan of pruning. Being pruned has not been without some pain. Yet, I welcome your pruning in my life. Draw me close. Help me to remain in you. Make me able to bear an abundance of fruit for your kingdom and glory. Amen

Promises*He Prunes*

"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. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

NIV

John 15:1-4

Promises*He Prunes*

"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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

ESV

John 15:1-4

Promises*He Prunes The Branches*

"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. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

NLT

John 15:1-4

Promises*He Prunes*

"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. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

NKJV

John 15:1-4

Promises*He Prunes*

"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. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

NRSV

John 15:1-4

Promises*He Prunes*

"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. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

MSG

John 15:1-4

Promises*He Cuts Away*

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. You are cleansed *and* pruned already, because of the word which I have given you [the teachings I have discussed with you]. Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me.

AMP

John 15:1-4

Promises*He Prunes*

"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. He has already tended you by pruning you back for greater strength and usefulness by of means the commands I gave you. Take care to live in me, and let me live in you. For a branch can't produce fruit when severed from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from me.

TLB

John 15:1-4

Promises*He Prunes*

"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. "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me.

NASB

John 15:1-4

Promises*He Trims*

"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. You are already clean because of the words I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch cannot produce fruit alone but must remain in the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit alone but must remain in me.

NCV

John 15:1-4

He Prunes The Branches

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – John 15:1-4

In Context: Read John 15:1-4

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 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. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. John 15:1-4 (NLT)

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

"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. | You have already | been pruned | and | purified by the message | I have given you. | Remain in me, | and I will remain in you. F| or a branch | cannot produce fruit | if it is severed | from the vine, | and you cannot | be fruitful | unless you | remain in me. John 15:1-4 (NLT)

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

Heavenly Father, I know I have not been a fan of pruning. Being pruned has not been without some pain. Yet, I welcome your pruning in my life. Draw me close. Help me to remain in you. Make me able to bear an abundance of fruit for your kingdom and glory. Amen

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

When has your Heavenly Father pruned your life so you could bear more fruit for Him?

What has your Heavenly Father used to prune your life so you could bear more fruit for Him?

What needed to be removed from your life so you could bear more fruit for your Heavenly Father?

How your Heavenly Father's pruning of your life caused you to draw nearer to Him?

How much fruit will your life bear if you fail to remain vitally connected to the Lord?

How are you making it your daily priority to remain vitally connected to the Lord?

What spiritual disciplines have most helped you to remain vitally connected to the Lord?

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

Welcome the Heavenly Father's pruning of your life so you can bear more fruit for Him.

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

Have faith that your Heavenly Father will prune you so that you can bear 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 the Heavenly Father's pruning has helped you to bear more fruit.

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 welcome the Heavenly Father's pruning in your life so you can bear more fruit for Him.

Prayer To Carry

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

Heavenly Father, prune my life so I can bear 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 today?
