

# GROWTH THROUGH PRUNING

John 15.1-11 // May 30, 2021

## THE SPIRIT'S JOB DESCRIPTION

When we think of pruning, we often think of pruning off unhealthy branches or branches that don't bear fruit. We often relate it to the Lord pruning off sinful areas of life. But here, Jesus tells us that His Father, the Vinedresser, prunes the branches that *do* bear fruit!

Genesis 3.6 // Proverbs 14.12

**There is a way that seems right to a man,  
but its end is the way to death.**

Proverbs 14.12

## THE WAY THAT GOD PRUNES

Though a dentist or doctor could perform certain procedures upon themselves, even with the same anesthetic and tools they know that it is better to be done in the hands of another. We have a built in aversion and protection against self-harm and pain, even if we *know* it is good for us. Likewise, our flesh, sinful desires, and the idols in our hearts also have an aversion to self-harm and pain, and they will do everything to fight in order to stay alive.

Proverbs 27.20 // Hebrews 12.3-11

We have a perverse ability to feel good about things that are not good...We are blind to our own blindness. And the spiritually blind person walks around believing that no one has a more accurate view of themselves than they do...We need daily intervention...Each of us, whether pastors or congregants, needs the eyes of others in order to see ourselves with clarity and accuracy. And what is this daily ministry of intervention protecting us from? From becoming spiritually blinded to the point of the hardening of our hearts. Our own hearts deceive us.

**-Paul Tripp, Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands**

## PUSH OVER THE IDOLS

What are the areas of idolatry in your life? What do you hold on tightly to, that when it is being threatened, you tighten your grip?

Acts 26.14

**You can avoid the pruning and discipline of the Lord,  
but only for so long. He will not be mocked, and because of His  
love for you, He will not let you win.**

## NOTES:

### This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

**1 Peter 1:3-4**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

## ARE YOU NEW HERE?

### WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

### WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at [amber@lifemission.tv](mailto:amber@lifemission.tv)**

### JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at [tyler@lifemission.tv](mailto:tyler@lifemission.tv)**.



## Contact Us

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## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **John 15.1-11**. What stands out in this passage and from the sermon on Sunday?

### Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

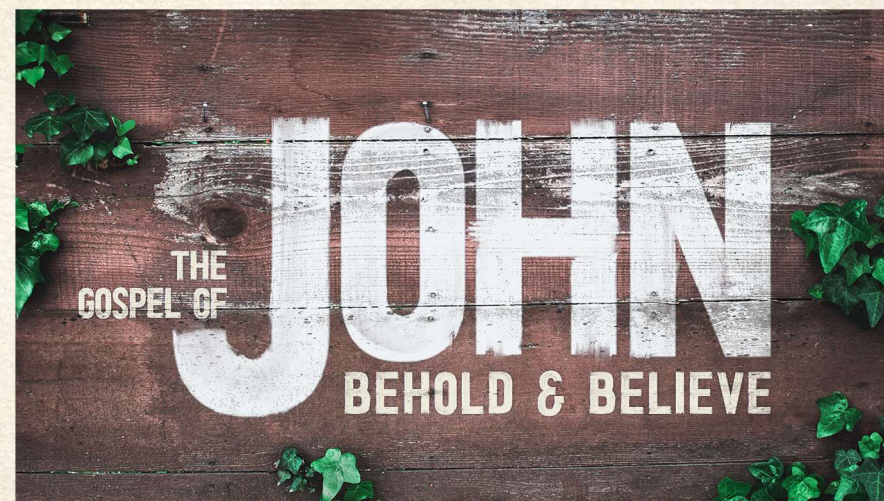
Why is it good news that God will prune even the fruitful parts of our life? How does this help us to endure when even good things are being threatened or taken from us?

### Your Life Mission

Many live in fear when good things are taken out of their life. But we have the message of the Gospel of a Vinedresser who prunes us for our good. What conversations do you need prayer for, that you might bring the hope of God's wisdom to people going through pruning? Pray that the Spirit would bring to remembrance what He has taught you so that you can have these conversations.

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love.

- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself** (Matthew 6.9, 10)
  - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess** (Matthew 6.12)
  - Real repentance begins where blame-shifting stops. Your circumstances don't need to change, your heart needs to change. Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision** (Matthew 6.11-13)
  - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God's desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6.10)
  - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



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### SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School  
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

## GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM

