

The background of the slide is a lush green foliage, featuring various shades of green leaves and branches, some with serrated edges. The foliage is dense and fills the entire frame, creating a vibrant, natural setting.

Pruned for joy

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30 Jun 2024



ARISE, SHINE
YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

John 15:1-11

“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, as I also 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.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.



John 15:1-11

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.



Who are the characters in the parable and what do they do?

Jesus – True Vine

Jesus identifies Himself as the "true vine," the source of life, nourishment, and growth for His followers. By remaining connected to Him, believers receive the spiritual sustenance necessary to bear fruit

Father – Gardener

He is the vinedresser actively involved in caring for the vine and branches. He cuts off branches that bear no fruit (representing judgment on those who are not truly connected to Christ).
Prune fruitful branches

Believers – Branches

Believers are the branches, dependent entirely on the vine (Jesus) for spiritual vitality.
Meant to bear fruit: Reflect godly character, actions, and influence, glorifying God and be a true disciple.
Remain in the vine: Maintain a close, abiding relationship with Jesus through obedience, love, and trust.

What is the purpose of the parable itself?

So that Jesus's joy may be ours
and that our joy may be complete.

Our joy and God's glory are intertwined.
This means when we are pruned to produce
fruit we experience true joy.



How is God most glorified?

When the branches produce fruit
When the branches continue to
produce more and more fruit



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2 types of branches

Fruit-bearing

Connected to the vine and pruned/trained to produce fruit.

Non-fruit-bearing

Connected to the vine but not pruned or trained.



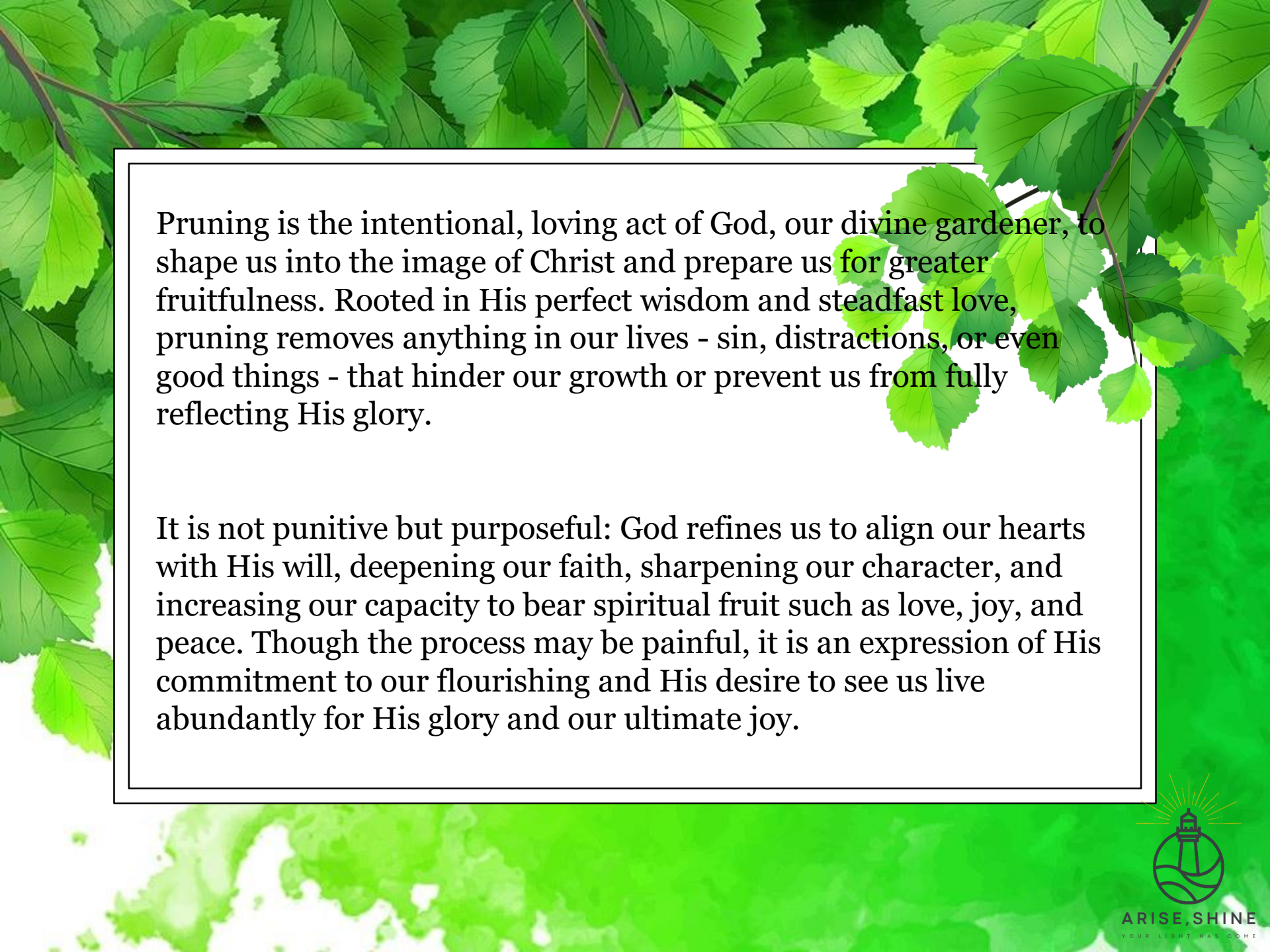
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Pruning?

What is pruning and why
is it necessary?

Hebrews 12:10-11 ...but he disciplines us for our good,
that we may share his holiness. For the moment all
discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it
yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who
have been trained by it.





Pruning is the intentional, loving act of God, our divine gardener, to shape us into the image of Christ and prepare us for greater fruitfulness. Rooted in His perfect wisdom and steadfast love, pruning removes anything in our lives - sin, distractions, or even good things - that hinder our growth or prevent us from fully reflecting His glory.

It is not punitive but purposeful: God refines us to align our hearts with His will, deepening our faith, sharpening our character, and increasing our capacity to bear spiritual fruit such as love, joy, and peace. Though the process may be painful, it is an expression of His commitment to our flourishing and His desire to see us live abundantly for His glory and our ultimate joy.

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In His hands, pruning is not a loss but a transformation – a process where what is unnecessary is removed so that what remains can thrive.



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We, the branches are pruned by our Father to have

Growth in all seasons

Vines only bear fruit on second-year wood, so pruning removes old, unproductive canes. This prevents wild, bushy growth that saps energy from fruit-bearing canes

Good quality crops

Pruning regulates the number of buds left on the plant, focusing the vine's energy on fewer grape clusters. This improves fruit quality and helps the vine mature its crop within a growing season

No disease or damage

Overgrown vines create dense canopies that block sunlight and airflow, fostering fungal diseases. Pruning opens up the canopy, promoting healthier vines, reducing disease risks.

Redirects Energy: Pruning removes non-fruiting branches, redirecting energy to fruit-bearing areas.

Promotes Air Circulation: Pruning opens up the vine, reducing humidity and preventing disease.

Controls Vigor: Pruning balances vine growth, preventing over-vigorous branches from diverting energy.



Encourages Fruitfulness:

Pruning stimulates dormant buds, increasing fruit production.

Maintains Shape: Pruning trains the vine to a desired shape, optimizing sunlight exposure.



Resisting the Father

Overgrown and Chaotic: Pride

An unpruned vine grows wild and unruly, with shoots going in every direction. This excess prevents the vine from focusing its energy on producing fruit.

James 4:6 *God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble*

Pride blinds a person to their need for change - *band*

Weak and Withering: Stubbornness

Without pruning, a vine's branches become too weak to support themselves, often sagging and withering under their own weight.

Hebrews 3:15 *Do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion*

Like withered branches, stubbornness leads to a hardened heart that is unable to receive nourishment or direction from God.

Unaddressed sin and unhealthy habits - *conflict*



Resisting the Father

Unfruitful: Worldliness

Unpruned vines produce more leaves than fruit, focusing on outward worldly growth rather than yielding the sweet, abundant harvest

Matthew 13:22 *The worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful*

A focus on worldly gain leads to barrenness in spiritual matters, robbing the person of true joy and purpose - *btc*

Tangled and Decaying: Bitterness

Without pruning, vines tangle upon themselves causing a thick canopy, cutting off air and light. Creates an environment for decay and disease

Hebrews 12:15 *See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many*

Bitterness entangles the soul, blocking the light of God's grace and leading to spiritual decay - *krapperigheid*



Resisting the Father

Unhealthy Attachment: Lack of faith

Weak or superficial connection to the vine that can be a result of a lack of intimacy or past hurts where healing is still required

Rom 11:23 *And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.*

Self-mage

Disease or Pests: Fungal infections or pests

A branch can't protect itself and we need to trust the Vinedresser to cut off areas of disease.

1 Cor 5:6-7 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened.

Unrepentant sin, spiritual apathy, or harmful influences can harm spiritual health – *alcohol*





His glory
Our Joy



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Let's Pray

