

## Pruning and Grafting

There was a woman who had an apple tree. She loved the apple tree and the apples that grew on the tree were delicious! Over the years, the woman noticed that the tree was producing fewer apples – the tree looked fine and had lots of leaves, but just not so many apples. This made the woman sad and she called a gardener to help her fix her tree.



The gardener had a wonderful suggestion – add new branches to the tree. He cut off the branches on the tree and added new branches from a tree that WAS producing lots of apples. This changed the woman’s tree into a tree that that grew apples every year! This process is called *grafting*.

Watch a video of an apple tree being grafted [HERE](#).

We can think of ourselves as apple trees. God (the Creator) is the orchard keeper. In John 15:1-2 Jesus tells us “...my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do not bear fruit so they will produce even more.”

Jesus is the strong trunk of our tree. He provides the framework for us to grow and produce fruit.

The Holy Spirit is the life that runs through the tree, like sap.

WE are the branches on the tree. When we stop producing the fruit that God wants of us, he will graft new life into us so that we can continue to do the work he wants of us. In John 15:16, Jesus says, “You didn’t choose me, I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit.” What kind of fruit do we produce with the God – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

You can review these *fruits of the spirit* with the coloring sheet on the next page.



**Fruits of the Spirit**  
**Galatians 5:22-23**