

Daily Devotions

Day 1: The Purpose of Pruning

Reading: John 15:1-5

God's pruning is not punishment—it's preparation for greater fruitfulness. Like a skilled gardener who cuts away excess growth so sunlight can reach the fruit, your Heavenly Father removes good things to make room for better things. Those closed doors, redirected plans, and seasons of loss may not be discipline for sin but divine pruning for purpose. The pain of cutting is real, but so is the promise of abundance. Today, consider what God might be pruning from your life. Are there commitments, relationships, or pursuits that, while not sinful, are crowding out your capacity for deeper ministry? Trust the Vinedresser's loving hands. He sees the fruit you cannot yet see.

Day 2: Lifted from the Dirt

Reading: Psalm 40:1-3; John 15:2

When we fall into patterns of sin or spiritual apathy, we become like branches lying in the dirt—cut off from light and air, unable to bear fruit. But notice God's response: He doesn't discard us; He lifts us up. The phrase "takes away" in John 15:2 literally means "lifts up from the ground." Your Father is not waiting to condemn you but to restore you. He brushes off the dirt, ties you back to the trellis, and gives you another opportunity to flourish. If you're struggling today, remember that God's first response to your fruitlessness is compassionate intervention. Confess where you've fallen, accept His lifting grace, and allow Him to reposition you for growth.

Day 3: Secure in His Hands

Reading: John 10:27-30; John 6:37-40

Your fruitfulness does not determine your salvation—Jesus does. Nothing can snatch you from the Father's hand. Not your failures, not your seasons of barrenness, not your worst moments. Jesus promises to lose nothing that the Father has given Him. This security frees you to pursue fruitfulness without fear. You're not earning your place in the vine; you're already grafted in by grace. Today, reject the anxiety that whispers you might lose your salvation or that you were never truly saved. Your security rests in Christ's finished work, not your performance. From this foundation of assurance, fruitfulness flows naturally. Rest in Him, then reach out in ministry from that place of rest.

Day 4: The Fire of Discipline

Reading: Hebrews 12:5-11; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

God's discipline feels like fire, but it's not hell—it's love. When a believer persists in fruitlessness through rebellion or apathy, the Vinedresser intensifies His intervention. This divine discipline proves you belong to Him. Earthly fathers discipline children they love; how much more does your Heavenly Father? The fire tests your works, purifies your motives, and redirects your path toward fruitfulness. If you're experiencing severe trials or consequences for poor choices, don't interpret this as rejection. God is treating you as His beloved child. The question is not whether you'll survive the fire but whether you'll submit to its refining purpose. Respond to His discipline with humility, knowing it leads to righteousness and peace.

Day 5: Time is Short—Bear Fruit Now

Reading: Psalm 90:10-12; Ephesians 5:15-17

Moses prayed that God would teach us to number our days that we might gain a heart of wisdom. Your time on earth is brief—a vapor, a stone removed from the jar. This reality should not paralyze you with fear but mobilize you for fruitfulness. Every month that passes is gone forever. Will you spend it connected to the Vine, allowing His life to flow through you into ministry and impact? Or will you waste precious days disconnected, distracted, and fruitless? Today, make the wise choice: abide in Christ. Stay connected through prayer, obedience, and surrender. Let the sap of His Spirit empower you. Your Vinedresser has prepared good works for you to walk in. Time is short. Bear the fruit you were created to bear.

Deacons on Call

Brad Friesen and Archie Harris

Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM
- **First Kids:** See you at **VBS ... June 28-July 1**
- **First Youth:** See Eric for summer schedule

Welcome

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

Bearing Fruit Part 3

JOHN 15:1-10

— Verses we all need to Memorize —

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. **PHILIPPIANS 4:14** ESV

June 14, 2026

Bearing Fruit Part 3

JOHN 15:1-10

Jesus, walking with the disciples toward the Garden of Gethsemane, gives life lessons to His disciples using the familiar example of growing grapes. With that analogy in mind, let's begin this series by better understanding the terms being employed by our great and wonderful Savior and Teacher.

1. If I'm bearing fruit ... God _____.

2. If I'm not bearing fruit ... God _____.

3. If I'm still not bearing fruit ... God _____.

YIELDING TO THE OLD SINFUL WAYS	
Consequences	Passages
Conviction	2 Peter 2:7-8; Ps. 32:1-5
Divine discipline	Hebrews 12:5-11
Premature death	Acts 5:1-11; 1 Cor. 11:30; 1 John 5:16; Rev. 2:22-23
Loss of reward	1 Corinthians 3:15; 9:27; 2 John 8; Revelation 3:11
Loss of fellowship	1 John 1:9
Excommunication	1 Corinthians 5:4-5; Matthew 18:15-17
Temporal consequences	Galatians 6:7-8
Unanswered prayer	Psalm 66:18; 1 Peter 3:7
Loss of testimony	Genesis 19:14
Loss of leadership	1 Timothy 3:1-13

Scripture References (In order of use): John 10:27, 6:37-40; Matthew 25:41; 1 Corinthians 3:15; 1 Peter 1:6-7; Hebrews 6:8, 12:5-9; 1 Corinthians 11:30; Psalm 90:12
Reference Works: Addresses on the Gospel of John (H. A. Ironside); The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters: The Gospel of John, I, II, and III John (Bob Utley); The Gospel of John (Jack Wilson Stallings); John (Kenneth O. Gangel); John (Barnabas Lindars)

Discussion Questions

1. What's your favorite fruit? Why?
2. Read John 15:1-10. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. How can we distinguish between God's pruning and God's discipline in our lives, and why is understanding this difference important for our spiritual growth?
4. What legitimate activities or commitments in your life might be preventing you from bearing more fruit for God's kingdom, even though they are not inherently sinful?
5. How does the proper translation of 'lifts up' instead of 'takes away' in John 15:2 change your understanding of God's character and His response to struggling believers?
6. In what ways have you experienced God lifting you out of the dirt when you were disconnected from the vine, and how did you recognize His intervention?
7. How does the security of salvation presented in John 10:27-29 and John 6:37-40 affect your motivation to bear fruit and abide in Christ?
8. What does it reveal about God's love that He disciplines His children, and how should this truth shape our response when we face trials or hardship?
9. How can we practically apply the concept of realizing the brevity of life from Psalm 90:12 to ensure we are investing our time in bearing eternal fruit?
10. How can we help each other to distinguish between spiritual apathy and discipline that needs addressing and seasons of pruning that require patient endurance?



We've always been surrounded by an oikos ... we just hadn't notice them.