JANUARY SERMON SERIES:
LESSON ONE:
GOD'S PRUNING PROCESS

GOD HAS A GREEN THUMB
(The Pruning Process)
January Sermon Series

'Green Thumb' means to be skilled at gardening.

Scripture Lesson:
John 15:1-2

John 15:1-2, “I Am the True Vine, and My Father is the Vine-dresser. 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." God is a master gardener who nurtures, grows, and brings life, beauty, and fruitfulness to people and the world much like a skilled gardener tends plants.

Lesson One:
GOD'S PRUNING PROCESS

* Jesus is the True Vine.
* God the Father is the Gardener.
* Believers are the branches.

The "pruning" process refers to God's intentional work in a Christian’s life to remove anything that hinders spiritual fruitfulness.

* Joseph (Genesis 39)
* Moses (Exodus 2-3)
* Paul (Acts 9)
* Hannah (I Samuel 1-2)

Four Reasons Why God Prunes Us:

1. To Remove What is Dead or Dying.



1. Dead or dying parts of yourself.
2. Things that distract from God.
3. Old ways of thinking.



2. To Remove What is Infected or Diseased.

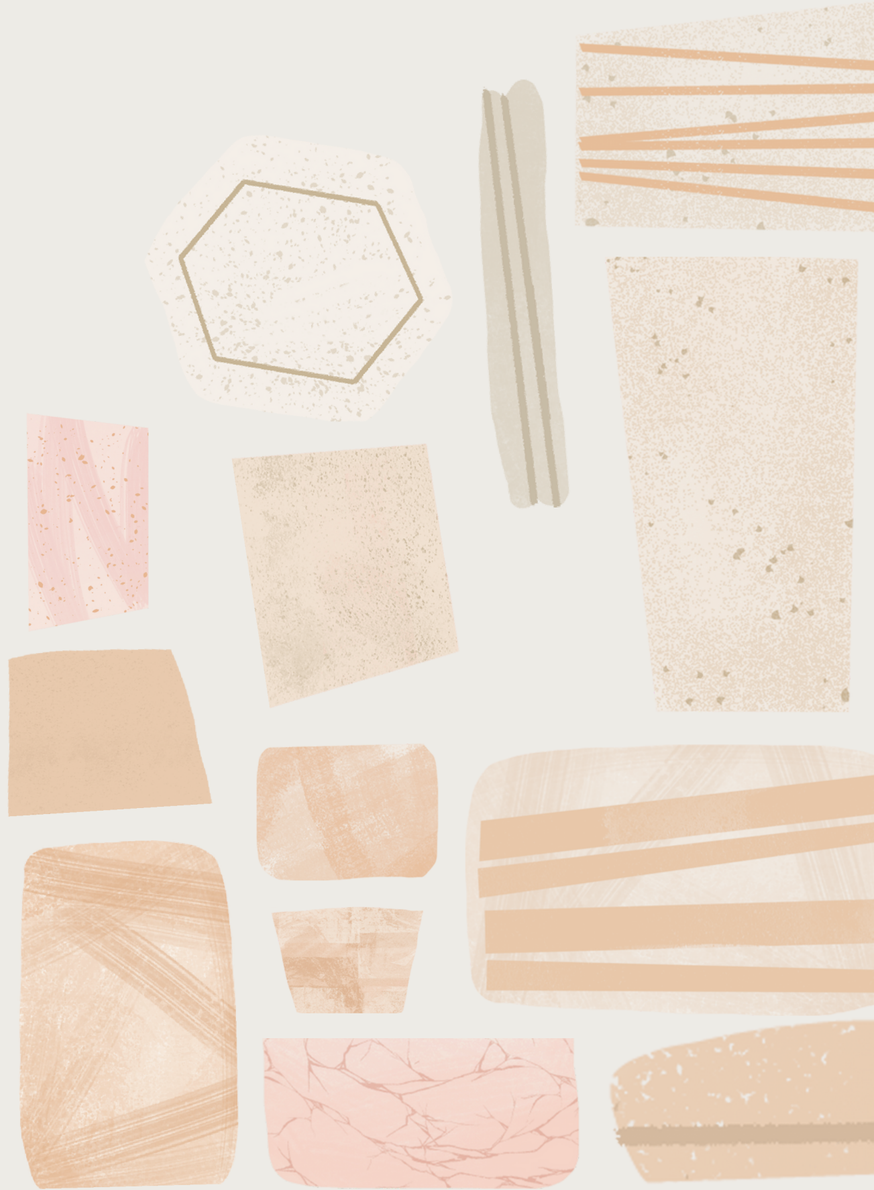


Romans 12:2, And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.

J. B. Phillips Translation

God has to open a wound to heal it.



3. To Remove What is Hindering You.



Hebrews 12:10-11, God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Pruning isn’t solely for removing things that are obviously bad for you. Sometimes God has to remove good things that aren’t good for you.

4. To Keep You Focused and on the Right Track.

Pruning Requires Surrender.