JANUARY SERMON SERIES:

LESSON TWO:
THE PURPOSES OF GOD'S PRUNING

JANUARY SERMON SERIES
(The Pruning Process)
GOD HAS A GREEN THUMB

'Green Thumb' means to be skilled at gardening.

Scripture Lesson: John 15:1-2

“I Am the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. 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.

Jesus is the True Vine.
God the Father is the Gardener (or Vine-dresser). 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.

The way we respond when we are pruned reveals our true level of spiritual maturity.

Lesson Two:
THE PURPOSES OF GOD'S PRUNING

Four Reasons God Prunes:

1. To Remove What Hinders Growth.

HINDRANCES TO GROWTH:

* Sinful behaviors
* Selfishness
* Distractions
* Toxic Relationships
* Old Wounds
* Unproductive Habits

2. To Increase Spiritual Fruitfulness.

Galatians 5:22-23, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Pruning isn’t just about cutting back—it’s about creating space.

3. To Draw Us Closer to God.

4. To Prepare Us for Greater Service.

Four Pruning Tools God Uses:

1. The Tool of Trials

James 1:2-3, Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

2. The Tool of Conviction.

I John 1:9, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

"Condemnation tells you who you were. Conviction reveals who you are called to be.”

3. The Tool of Discipline.

Hebrews 12:5-6, "...My child, pay attention when the Lord corrects you, and do not be discouraged when He rebukes you. Because the Lord corrects everyone He loves, and disciplines everyone He accepts as a child.

4. The Tool of Scripture.

Hebrews 4:12, For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

God’s pruning is always done in love, with the goal of bringing us CLOSER to Him and enabling us to live lives that GLORIFY Him.