

ABIDE IN ME — WEEK 3

## **Pruning for Growth**

### **1. Pruning for Growth**

Abiding isn't just about staying connected.

It's also about removing what interrupts connection.

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.”

—*John 15:1 (NLT)*

### **2. The Gardener Prunes with Purpose**

“My Father is the gardener.”

—*John 15:1 (NLT)*

God has always been revealed as the One who plants, tends, and grows life.

“They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season.”

—*Psalms 1:3 (NLT)*

God prunes what He intends to make fruitful.

### **3. What Gets Pruned Isn't Always Sin**

“He prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.”

—*John 15:2 (NLT)*

Good things can still interrupt God things.

Sin disconnects quickly.

“It’s your sins that have cut you off from God.”

— *Isaiah 59:2 (NLT)*

Distraction disconnects slowly.

“All too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced.”

— *Matthew 13:22 (NLT)*

#### **4. Fruit Loss Signals Interrupted Flow**

“You cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.”

— *John 15:4 (NLT)*

Fruit in Scripture always flows from life — not striving.

“You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence.”

— *Psalms 16:11 (NLT)*

“Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength?”

— *Isaiah 55:2 (NLT)*

You can be connected — and still congested.

#### **5. Appearance Without Abiding**

Jesus gives a sobering picture through the fig tree.

“He noticed a fig tree in full leaf... but there were only leaves.”

—*Mark 11:13 (NLT)*

“The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!”

—*Mark 11:21 (NLT)*

Leaves advertise.

Fruit testifies.

## **6. The World Pressures Us Away from Abiding**

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world.”

—*Romans 12:2 (NLT)*

“If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first.”

—*John 15:18 (NLT)*

“You do not belong to the world... that is why the world hates you.”

—*John 15:19 (NLT)*

“They will do all this to you because of me.”

—*John 15:21 (NLT)*

If you don't intentionally remove pressure, pressure will eventually remove presence.

“Do not love this world nor the things it offers you.”

—*1 John 2:15–17 (NLT)*

## **7. Pruning Simplifies Focus**

Abiding in Jesus must result in life.

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”  
—*John 10:10 (NLT)*

Anything that interrupts abiding opens space for what steals life.

## **8. Pruning Restores Flow**

Pruning doesn't control your life.  
It clears space for life.

“You have already been pruned and purified.”  
—*John 15:3 (NLT)*

## **9. Cleared to Abide**

You're not being cut away from life.  
You're being cleared for life.

“Remain in fellowship with Christ.”  
—*1 John 2:28 (NLT)*

**Abide.**

— ABIDE IN ME - WEEK 3 —

# Pruning for Growth



Abiding isn't just about staying connected.  
It's also about removing what interrupts connection.

**SCRIPTURE SPINE** John 15:1-4 · Psalm 1:1-3 · Matthew 13:22

Romans 12:2 · John 15:18-19 · John 10:10 · 1 John 2:28 · 1 John · 228

## KEY TRUTHS

### God Prunes with Purpose

- God is not removing you — He is tending you.
- Pruning is attention, not rejection.

### Good Things Can Crowd Out God Things

- Not everything that hinders is sinful.
- Distraction disconnects slowly.

### Fruit Loss Signals Interrupted Flow

- Fruit doesn't fail because of laziness.
- Fruit fails when life stops flowing.

### The World Pressures Us Away from Abiding

- Abiding will always feel inefficient in a culture addicted to urgency.
- The world doesn't hate effort — it hates dependence.

### Pruning Simplifies Focus

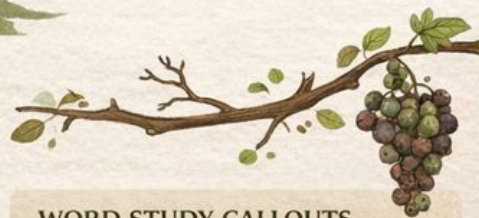
- Life multiplies when attention is clarified.
- God didn't choose from culture shape our spiritual rhythms?
- What does pruning look like practically this season.

## Gardener — *gēorgos*

A cultivator, caretaker, one who works the land with intention.

## Pruned / Cleaned — *kathairō*

To cleanse, remove obstruction, restore flow



## WORD STUDY CALLOUTS

### Gardener — *gēorgos*

A cultivator, caretaker, one who works the land with intention.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

- What consistently crowds my attention away from Jesus?
- Where has fruit begun to thin or feel forced?
- What might God be inviting me to remove, not add?

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

- Remove one unnecessary input
- Create one margin for quiet
- Stay longer than feels productive

