



JESUS & IDENTITY | LESSON 3 DEVOTION 2

“I AM THE TRUE VINE, AND MY FATHER IS THE GARDENER. HE CUTS OFF EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT BEARS NO FRUIT, WHILE EVERY BRANCH THAT DOES BEAR FRUIT HE PRUNES SO THAT IT WILL BE EVEN MORE FRUITFUL.”

-JOHN 15:1-2

If a plant could talk, what do you think it would say about being pruned? (“Pruning” is trimming branches and leaves so that a shrub or plant can either take a desired shape so that it might grow more effectively.)

If we had to guess, you can bet the plants didn’t like it all that much. Getting part of you cut off can feel like an attack more than help. But here’s the deal: Chances are, the plants would recognize that pruning is good for them. It allows them to grow healthier. It prevents disease. It encourages new growth. And so while pruning means that some of the plant is cut off, it also means that new, healthy growth takes its place.

Can you see the parallel in your life?

Jesus says that God prunes you, just like a gardener prunes a shrub. God knows the things in your life that keep you from following Him wholeheartedly. And so God, being a loving gardener, removes those aspects of your life to help you follow Him more.

Pruning isn’t fun. But we know that God prunes us because He loves us. Whatever it is He cuts away, we can trust that it was keeping us from being fully devoted to Him.