

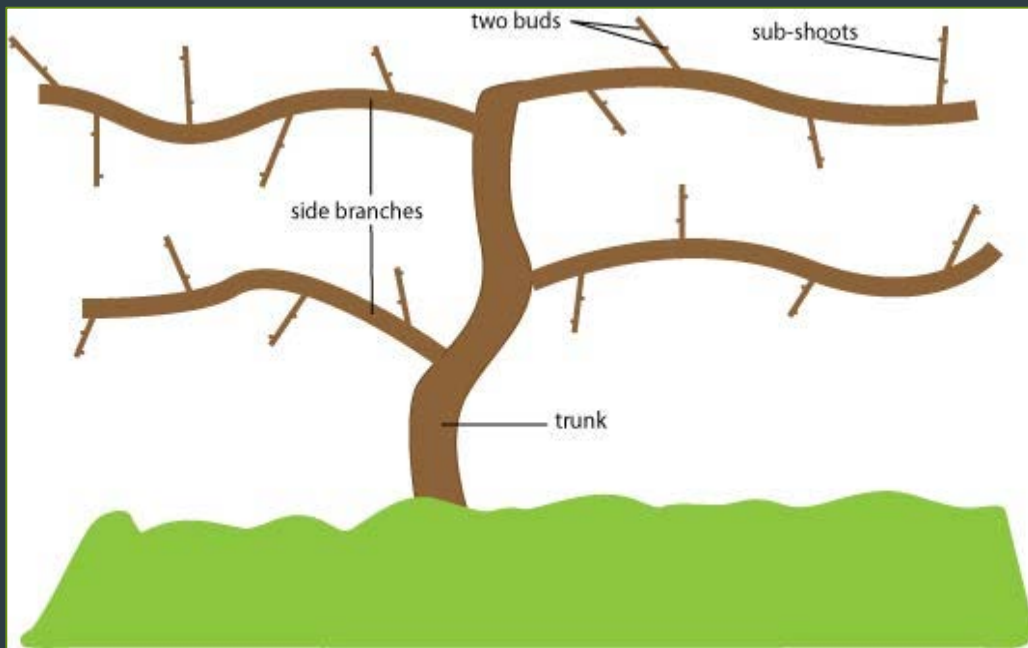


# Meet Jesus:

I am the True Vine,  
You are the Branches

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*John 15:1-11*



## Grapevine was Ancient Symbol for Israel

Jesus = True Vine  
Branches = People  
God, the Father =  
Vinedresser or Gardener

**Being Connected to  
Jesus Provides:**

Protection

Purpose

Pleasure



# Being Connected to Jesus...

## Provides PROTECTION



# Being Connected to Jesus...

Provides PROTECTION - John 15:2, 6

**A Gardener is fiercely protective of the vine...**

- Unfruitful branches waste energy and nutrients
- Once apart from the vine they soon wither
- These branches are too soft to be used for any other purpose so they are often burned

**God the Father is fiercely protective of His Family...**

- Desires to strip away distractions or things that will lead us astray
- Only connected can we make an eternal difference
- God of Grace, but also Justice. We are all accountable for how we lived our lives.

# Being Connected to Jesus...

Provides PROTECTION - John 15:2, 6

*2 Corinthians 10:5 – take every thought captive*

*Psalms 1:1-3 – be careful of our relationships*

*Hebrews 3:12-13 – we are to remind ourselves and encourage others not to turn from God*



**A Loving God seeks to Protect His People from:**

**False Teachings, Wrong Relationships**

**Wrong Passions, Wrong Pursuits**

**What has God been trying to help you break free from and encouraging others to do the same?**

# Being Connected to Jesus...

## Provides PURPOSE



# Being Connected to Jesus...

## Provides PURPOSE

John 15:2, 7-8

### We are called to bare good fruit...

- **Share God's love and message to others**
- **Stay connected to grow in Christ-like character**
- **Glorify God in all that we do and how we serve others**

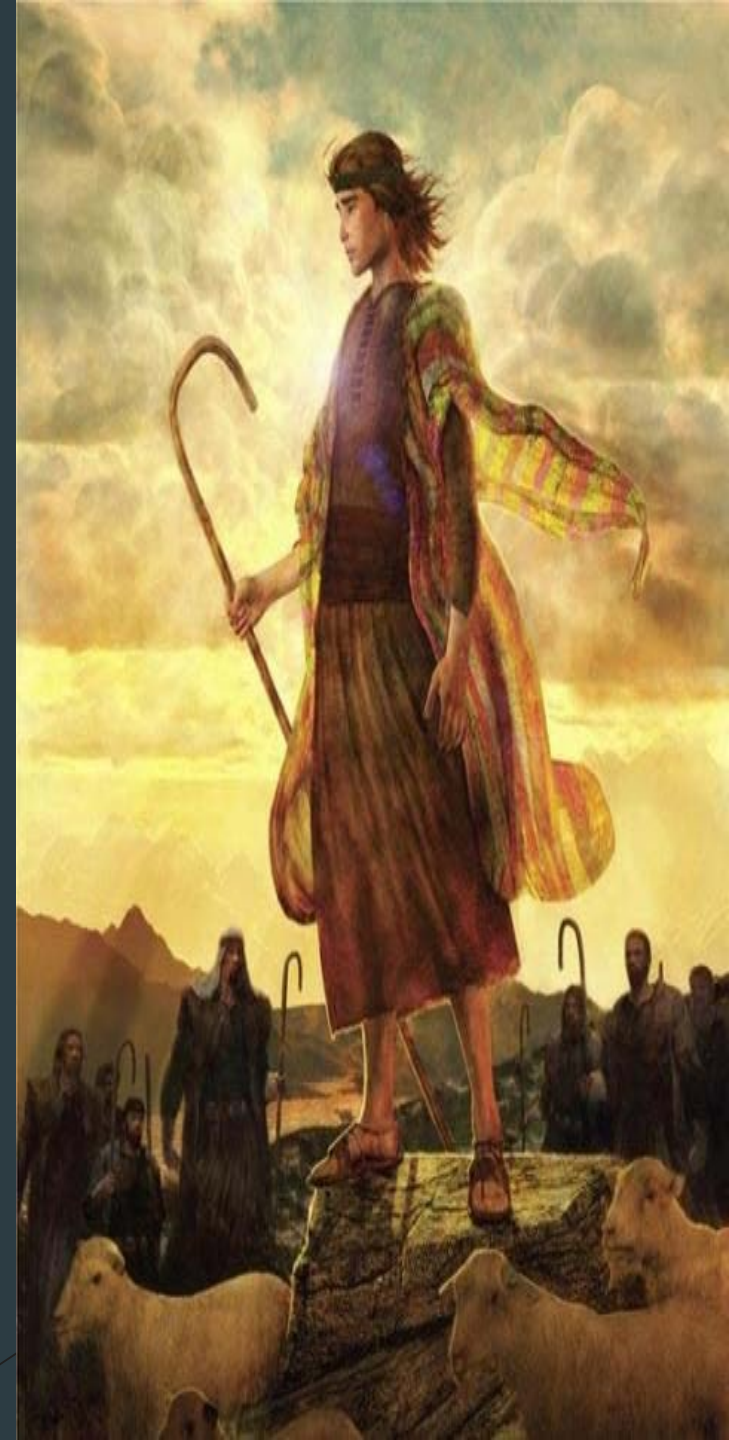
### The Father prunes us...

- **So we can produce more fruit**
- **Trims out our wrong thoughts and behavior**
- **Sometimes allows difficult times so we can grow even more**



# Remember the story of Joseph...

- After being sold to slavery **the Lord was with Joseph and he succeeded** in everything he did (Genesis 39:2)
- **God blessed others** because of Joseph (Genesis 39:5)
- **The Lord was with Joseph** (even in prison) and showed Joseph **His faithful love** (Genesis 39:21)
- Joseph came to realize what others intended for harm **God used for good** for himself and others (Genesis 50:20)





*“If your eyes are on the storm  
You'll wonder if I love you still*

*But if your eyes are on the cross  
You'll know I always have  
and I always will*

*And not a tear is wasted  
In time, you'll understand*

*I'm painting beauty with the ashes  
Your life is in My hands”*

*- Just Be Held, by Casting Crowns*



**Remember:** Pruning from God is not **Punishment**;  
it is **Preparation** to Continue to Fulfill your **Purpose**

# Being Connected to Jesus...

## Provides PLEASURE



# Being Connected to Jesus...

## Provides PLEASURE

John 15:9-11 – abide, keep, love, joy:

Remain connected to Jesus

Abide –

- *To wait for*
- *Endure without yielding*
- *To Bear patiently*
- *To Remain stable or fixed in a state*
- *To continue in a place*
- *To remain, stay, or live somewhere*
- *To dwell or linger*



# Being Connected to Jesus...

## Provides PLEASURE

“Trust in the Lord and do good.

Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.

**Take delight** in the Lord,

and he will give you your heart’s desires.”

– Psalm 37:3-4

Delight –

- *To take great pleasure in*
- *To give joy or satisfaction to*



# Being Connected to Jesus...

## Provides PLEASURE

“The Lord directs the steps of the godly.

**He delights** in every detail of their lives.”

– Psalm 37:23



“For the Lord your God is living among you.

He is a mighty savior.

**He will take delight** in you with gladness.

With his love, he will calm all your fears.

He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”

– Zephaniah 3:17





**When is the last time you remembered you were  
made to abide in Christ?  
Protection, Purpose, Pleasure**