



**Vine - Gardener - Branches - Fruit**  
 Jesus    The Father    Christians    Good Works



I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He lifts up 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

**Pruning is Necessary!**



Discipline – dealing with \_\_\_\_\_

Pruning – maximizing \_\_\_\_\_

When you feel something isn't right, what do you do?

Where does your energy go?

What can't you live without?



# ENCOUNTER QUESTIONS

Spiritual Growth Small Groups at Emmanuel Reformed Church

Issue	Disciplining	Pruning
How do you know it is happening?	Pain	Pain
Why is it happening?	Doing Something Wrong	Doing Something Right
What is your level of fruitfulness?	No Fruit	Some Fruit
What needs to go?	Sin	Self
How should you feel?	Guilt	Trust
What should you do?	Repent	Release
When does it stop?	When You <u>Repent</u>	When God is <u>Done</u>

Work through the differences between discipline and pruning. What clarity does this give? What questions does it raise?

A key verse for me on trust is Proverbs 3:5-6. How is trust in God always important?

When we are in pain it is hard to think straight. We need help. What can help you see things clearer when you are in pain? How should other Christians be involved? On the other hand, how might the opinions of others not be helpful?

Go back to the final two questions on the front of this page. Where might God be doing pruning in your life? Where might you be resisting?

**KIDS** – Write one important thing you heard in the sermon.