

# Pruning Reflection & Practice Guide

Pruning is both a practical gardening skill and a spiritual metaphor. Use this guide to shape healthier plants and reflect on how God is shaping your own life.

## Pruning Basics Checklist

- Use clean, sharp tools: hand pruners, loppers, pruning saw.
- Cut above a node or bud to encourage new growth.
- Angle cuts away from buds to prevent water damage.
- Remove crossing or crowded branches for airflow.
- Step back often to assess plant shape.
- Prune lightly and regularly rather than harshly once.

## Seasonal Pruning Chart (Zone 9)

- Winter/Early Spring – Prune dormant fruit trees, roses, grapes.
- After Flowering – Trim spring-blooming shrubs once blossoms fade.
- Summer – Lightly prune herbs, shape shrubs, deadhead flowers.
- Fall – Remove spent annuals and tidy perennials, but avoid heavy pruning right before frost.

## Reflection Space

What did pruning teach you this season?

Which cuts were hardest to make?

What new growth or fruitfulness are you anticipating?



## Journal Prompt

What “branches” in your life is God inviting you to let go of or reshape so you can bear more fruit?  
to God’s goodness?

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## Grace Note

Friend, pruning takes courage—but it is always an act of love. As you trim your roses or shape your citrus, may you also trust the divine Gardener to prune you gently, with wisdom and care.

