

Prayer Resource



True Fruit

Key Passage: John 15:1-17

CORPORATE PRAYER

Oh Lord, how wonderful you are!
Creator of all things,
Gardener of our lives,
We offer up ourselves to you today.
Prune back the parts of us that do not bear fruit;
We want to be fruit-bearers for you.
Work in us and through us so that everyone may know your great love.
Oh Lord, how wonderful you are!
Amen.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray about your own life, asking that God will prune in you so that you can be even more fruitful in that which he has called you to do.
- Pray that you (and your corps/centre) become deliberate in staying connected to Jesus. Ask God to help you make prayer and Bible study part of your everyday routine.
- Ask God for a love that is genuinely rooted in him - a love that doesn't just support others, but shows the world a glimpse of who Jesus is.
- Pray that The Salvation Army in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland will be a fruitful and effective church. Pray that our leaders, under God the Gardener's hand, will not be afraid to cut back that which is not bearing fruit and prune other parts to become more fruitful.



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PRAYER ACTIVITY

Resources

- Tree - draw, build or buy one (decorative twig tree). Write on paper strips some negative words (eg 'greed', 'bullying', 'dishonesty', 'self-importance', 'addiction'). You may want to leave some blank too.
- Scissors

Preparation

On the tree trunk write 'Jesus' and on the branches write 'Me'. Wrap the paper strips around the branches and fasten them there.

Activity

God is the Gardener, Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. In order for us to bear fruit, we must remain connected to Jesus. Even so, sometimes we grow in ways that are not good for us or for others. The Gardener must prune these dead parts back so that we are able to become even more fruitful. This is not an easy, pleasant or fast process. However, it is essential to our health and that of the rest of the tree.

Think about the spiritual fruit you have produced recently. Is anything in your life preventing that fruit from growing strong and beautiful? It might be something that you are thinking, something that you are saying or something you are doing. During this prayer time, approach the tree and prayerfully remove one of the paper strips. As you do so, open your life to the hand of God the Gardener. He knows what needs to be removed so that you will become ever more fruitful in the vineyard of God.

As you do the activity you may want to play or sing one of the suggested songs:

- ['New wine' \(Hillsong\)](#) - www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbJaM_EneMw&list=RDQbJaM_EneMw&start_radio=1
- ['God so loved' \(Hillsong\)](#) - www.youtube.com/watch?v=sG6yoghwa9A

