

Jeremiah's Pottery

God is the potter, we are His clay!

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. Then the word of the LORD came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? says the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. Jeremiah 18:1-6



What You Need

- Clay or Play-Doh (enough for each child to have a ball the size of an orange)
- A pot or bowl to use as a model - *set at the front of the room where you will be teaching your lesson.*

SAY: This morning I brought everyone some clay (Play-Doh). I'm sure that all of you have made things from clay. Do you know what you call someone who shapes things from clay? He or she is called a **potter**. In the story of Jeremiah, the Lord tells Jeremiah to go to the potter's house where he will hear His words. When Jeremiah arrives to the potter's house, he sees the potter working at his pottery wheel. Today, let's be potters and see what we can make of our pieces of clay.

(Give each child some clay or Play-Doh.)

SAY: Let's see, let's all start by making a snake. Take your clay/Play Doh and copy what I do. (*Take your clay and mold it into a snake shape by rolling between your hands.*)

SAY: Good! Now let's try molding our clay back into a ball. (*Roll your clay into a ball.*)

SAY: Sometimes you might start out making something and change your mind. If you change your mind, you can easily reshape the clay into something else! (*Hold up the pot or bowl you brought as a model.*) Let's try molding our clay into a bowl or pot. (*Mold your clay into the shape of a small pot. Allow students to continue to mold their clay.*)

SAY: What happens to a piece of clay if you forget and leave it out for a long time? (*Pause for responses.*) It dries up and gets hard doesn't it? That makes it very hard to mold it into what we want it to be.

Isaiah 64:8 teaches us that we are the clay, God is the potter, and we are the work in God's hands. God wants us to hear His words and follow His teachings so that He will mold us into the people He wants us to be. But when we sin and turn away from God, our hearts become hard, like clay that has been left out for a long time. Straying away from God can make things seem pretty hopeless, but the prophets teach us that when we turn back to God, all is not lost! God will mold us back into shape . . .we just need to listen to Him, especially when He is speaking to us through our hearts. *God is the potter and we are His clay!*