



05

JEREMIAH 18:1-12

THE MASTER POTTER



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Sometimes it can feel like we're never going to improve—we feel stuck, and we wonder, "Am I going to have to deal with this for the rest of my life?" Or we may look at others and think they're too messed up to change. But when we repent—turn away from sin and toward God—He begins to change everything about us, like a potter changes a lump of clay into a jar or vase. It doesn't matter what family we come from, the sins we've committed, or the struggles we have. God is the master Potter, and He can forgive, cleanse, and transform anyone to be more like His Son, Jesus. In today's session, God tells Jeremiah about His desire to change the path of Judah's future from one of judgment to one of mercy and forgiveness. God is always willing to relent and restore when we are willing to repent and receive His mercy.



CENTRAL **truth**

God will show mercy and grace when we repent.



EXPLORE

scripture

JEREMIAH 18:1-12

JEREMIAH 18:1-4

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: **2** “Go down at once to the potter’s house; there I will reveal my words to you.” **3** So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, working away at

the wheel. **4** But the jar that he was making from the clay became flawed in the potter’s hand, so he made it into another jar, as it seemed right for him to do.

JEREMIAH 18:5-10

5 The word of the LORD came to me: **6** “House of Israel, can I not treat you as this potter treats his clay?” — this is the LORD’s declaration. “Just like clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, house of Israel. **7** At one moment I might announce concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will uproot, tear down, and destroy it. **8** However, if that nation about which I

have made the announcement turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the disaster I had planned to do to it. **9** At another time I might announce concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it. **10** However, if it does what is evil in my sight by not listening to me, I will relent concerning the good I had said I would do to it.

JEREMIAH 18:11-12

11 So now, say to the men of Judah and to the residents of Jerusalem, “This is what the LORD says: Look, I am about to bring harm to you and make plans against you. Turn now, each from your evil way,

and correct your ways and your deeds.’ **12** But they will say, ‘It’s hopeless. We will continue to follow our plans, and each of us will continue to act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.’”

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JEREMIAH 18:6

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JEREMIAH 18:1-4

DWELL

As Jeremiah watched the potter work, he saw the clay become “flawed” in the potter’s hands. Perhaps to Jeremiah, the clay looked beyond repair. In the hands of the skillful potter, however, the clay was not only salvaged but beautifully crafted into another vessel. Whatever our flaws may be or however our sin has ruined our lives, we are not beyond God’s ability to rescue, remake, and restore us. We can’t do it. God can do it! He’s the Potter who can make us into His work of art.



Is any person’s life too spiritually broken for God to redeem and restore? Why or why not?



What is one way God is making you more like Him in this season of your life?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 18:6 in a journal each day this week and read it aloud 2–3 times. If you’d like, you can decorate the margins with doodles related to the verse.

PRAY

Tell God you trust Him to make you into His work of art for His glory. Ask Him to continue to change you according to His plans for you.

day 2

JEREMIAH 18:5-10

DWELL

Judah kept rebelling against God, and His righteous patience was coming to a close. Sometimes it can be tempting to believe the window of God's mercy has closed in our own lives. But Jesus willingly suffered and died on the cross to pay for our sin, once and for all. Why did He do that? He didn't do it because He had given up on us, that's for sure. Through His death, Jesus made a wide-open freeway to His forgiveness and mercy (see Heb. 4:16). When you're tempted to believe God is done with you, remember the cross and run to the throne of grace.

↔ When someone feels discouraged over their sin, how can you encourage them in their relationship with God?

↻ Is there any temptation or struggle you need to bring before God today? What is it?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 18:6 on a note card and post it somewhere you'll see it regularly, or save it as the lock screen on your phone. Say it aloud 2–3 times whenever you see it.

PRAY

Honestly and openly God what you're struggling with. Ask for His grace to empower you to resist temptation today and obey His Word.

day 3

JEREMIAH 18:11-12

DWELL

The people of Judah ignored God's counsel and said, "We will continue to follow our plans" (v. 12). There was no remedy for Judah because there was no repentance. Sadly, we often choose to be in charge of our own lives for a short period of time rather than spend an eternity under the good and loving reign of God. But no plan we can come up with remotely compares in value and joy to the plans God has for us. His plans produce life, hope, love, and peace. His plans are given to those who turn to Him and receive His grace.

↻ What was it about Judah's attitude and actions that made it impossible for God to show them mercy?

➔ How should we respond when we see that we've let sinful behaviors or attitudes enter our life?

MEMORIZE

Every time you wash your hands today, say as much of Jeremiah 18:6 aloud as you can remember.

PRAY

If you sense God is pointing out your sin to you, confess this sin to God and receive His willing and loving forgiveness. Pray for His empowering grace to walk in His righteousness today.

day 4

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

DWELL

When we think of the beginning of King David's story, most of us probably think about his battle with Goliath. But God had been shaping David for His plans long before that defining moment. When David was alone in those fields with his father's sheep, God, like a potter, was already forming him into a man after His own heart (see 1 Sam. 13:14). God is molding and shaping you for His good plans in your future—and He is shaping you for His good plans now. You can trust Him to shape you in to the man or woman He wants you to be.

↑ What do we learn about God from verse 7?

← Why didn't Jesse invite David to the feast—and why did God choose David anyway? What does this teach us about God's plans for our lives?

MEMORIZE

Ask 2–3 people today if you can practice reciting Jeremiah 18:6 for them.

PRAY

Thank the Lord that He is shaping and molding you in this season for His plans. Pray that His will would be fully done in your life.

day 5

EPHESIANS 2:4-10

DWELL

The word “workmanship” in verse 10 is related to something that is designed and created by another.¹ Through trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, we are made by God into brand new creations. Over time, we become greater and greater examples of the power of God's grace. His Spirit continually cleanses us from sin and produces in us the character of God (see Gal. 5:22-23). Like a potter, God shapes us into the image of His Son over our lifetimes. As we allow Him to form us year by year, we become what He created us to be.

↑ What does this passage teach us about God's love for us?

→ What are some good works God prepares all us to walk in? How could you live this out as you go about your week?

MEMORIZE

Write out each of the words of Jeremiah 18:6 on note cards or scraps of paper, and mix them up. See if you can put them in the correct order from memory.

PRAY

Thank God for His grace to save you. Thank Him for the good works He has prepared for you to walk in. Ask Him to show you how to walk in His plans today.

¹ Strong, James. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (1890), s.v. “4161. Poiéma.” Bible Hub. <https://biblehub.com/greek/4161.htm>