

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. Jeremiah 18:1-6

Potter

Do you really believe this? Believe what? **That you are the work of my hands.** I think that I do. **You seem a little tentative in your answer.** What would it mean if I did or didn't fully believe this? **That's a good question. Let's talk about that.**

If you don't believe that I am like a potter shaping you into the work of my hands, then who is in charge of shaping you?

If it's not you, then I guess it would have to be me. **If you were not in charge then someone would have to take charge. Isn't that what you have done for much of your life? Take charge?** Yes, that's true I suppose. **Why do you like being in charge?** I'm not sure exactly. **Take a stab at it.** I want to make progress and fulfill a good purpose in life. **That's very good.**

So, when I think that I have a sense of what that might be, I take charge and head off in that direction to try to make it happen.

How has that worked out for you? I have had very mixed success. Sometimes I've made bad decisions, gotten into trouble and wasted a lot of time. That's been very frustrating for me. **Me too. Do you want me to describe to you what has been happening to you from my perspective?** Yes, very much so. **One minute, you are on my potter's wheel, being shaped by me, the next moment you've jumped off. Then after awhile when you're all bent out of shape, you come back and jump back on my potter's wheel. So, I go from being glad to sad to glad again. It saddens me when you've taken charge of your life and jumped off my potter's wheel. As you have made bad choices and gotten all bent out of shape, I have felt sadness and pain right along with you.**

What part of you doesn't like to be in charge? The part of me that knows better and is becoming a little wiser. **Tell me what you mean.** I've started to be able to sense when I'm jumping off your potter's wheel. **How's that?** It's like your voice is whispering to me saying, "don't go there, be careful, don't do that." **That has been me, you're right.** So, I stop and return to ask for your help and direction. **Why do you need my help and direction?** I've learned that I'm not a good potter. I don't have the right perspective. I don't see things that you see. I don't know what you know. My efforts leave me sadly misshapen. **Are you saying that you would like to relinquish the potter's role to me?** Yes, I am. **Do you trust that I will continue to make you into the work of my hands?** Yes, I do. **How do you think that you will look when I've finished with you?** I will be beautiful in your sight and in the sight of all! **When do you think I will be finished molding and shaping your life?** When I'm in heaven with you? **Exactly, you got that right. Won't that be a great day? Yes, it will.**

Father, thank you that you are the potter and I am the clay. I trust you. My life is in your hands. Mold and shape my life according to your purposes and plans. Make me beautiful in your sight for your kingdom and glory. Amen

Identity *Like Clay In The Hand Of The Potter*

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

NIV

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Identity *As Clay Is In The Potter's Hand*

The LORD gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, "Go down to the potter's shop, and I will speak to you there." So I did as he told me and found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over. Then the LORD gave me this message: "O Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand.

NLT

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Identity *Like Clay In The Potter's Hand*

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Come, 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. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

NRSV

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Identity *As The Clay Is In The Potter's Hand*

THE WORD which came to Jeremiah from the Lord: Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and behold, he was working at the wheel. And the vessel that he was making from clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he made it over, reworking it into another vessel as it seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the word of the Lord came to me: O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does? says the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.

AMP

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Identity *Like Clay In The Potter's Hand*

The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD saying, "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will announce My words to you." Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make. Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.

NASB

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Identity *Like The Clay In The Potter's Hand*

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? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

ESV

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Identity *As The Clay Is In The Potter's Hand*

The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words." Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!

NKJV

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Identity *Just As The Potter Does This*

GOD told Jeremiah, "Up on your feet! Go to the potter's house. When you get there, I'll tell you what I have to say." So I went to the potter's house, and sure enough, the potter was there, working away at his wheel. Whenever the pot the potter was working on turned out badly, as sometimes happens when you are working with clay, the potter would simply start over and use the same clay to make another pot. Then GOD's Message came to me: "Can't I do just as this potter does, people of Israel?" GOD's Decree! "Watch this potter. In the same way that this potter works his clay, I work on you, people of Israel.

MSG

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Identity *As The Clay Is In The Potter's Hand*

Here is another message to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Go down to the shop where clay pots and jars are made, and I will talk to you there." I did as he told me and found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar that he was forming didn't turn out as he wished, so he kneaded it into a lump and started again. Then the Lord said: "O Israel, can't I do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand.

TLB

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Identity *Like The Clay In The Potter's Hands*

This is the word the LORD spoke to Jeremiah: "Go down to the potter's house, and I will give you my message there." So I went down to the potter's house and saw him working at the potter's wheel. He was using his hands to make a pot from clay, but something went wrong with it. So he used that clay to make another pot the way he wanted it to be. Then the LORD spoke his word to me: "Family of Israel, can't I do the same thing with you?" says the LORD. "You are in my hands like the clay in the potter's hands.

NCV

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Identity – Jeremiah 18:1-6

In Context: *Read Jeremiah 18*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Father, thank you that you are the potter and I am the clay. I trust you. My life is in your hands. Mold and shape my life according to your purposes and plans. Make me beautiful in your sight for your kingdom and glory. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How does God speak to you in your daily life through His word?

When has the Lord asked you to do something that you haven't fully understood?

How has God spoken to you through the circumstances and experiences of your life?

What message has God given to you that guides your life and can be shared with others?

How is your life like clay to be molded and shaped in the hands of God?

How is God like a loving potter molding and shaping your life for His Kingdom and His glory?

How are you making sure that you are allowing God to shape your life according to His purposes and plans?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Allow God to be in charge of shaping your life so that He can make you into the person He wants you to be.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that God is a loving potter molding and shaping your life like clay in His hands.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group what God has used to shape your life according to His purposes.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you trust that the Lord is molding and shaping you into the person that He wants you to be.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, instead of taking control of my life, I will trust you to mold me into the person you want me to be.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how do you want to mold and shape my life today?
