



The Cause

community church

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“The Potter and the Clay”

Gabbing about Life (Icebreaker)

If you could be one for just 24 hours, what cereal box cartoon character would you be? Why?

Reading from the Book of Life (the Bible)

Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 18:1-6

Grappling with Life’s Issues (Questions)

In these verses we have the imagery of God as the potter and the Israelites, or us, as the clay. Has anyone ever worked with clay to create anything? Describe the experience. God tells Jeremiah to go to the potter’s house in Jeremiah 18:2. He uses the imagery of a potter fashioning clay to describe how He shapes nations and communities for His purpose.

There are four valuable lessons that we can learn. Discuss each point within the group.

The potter has a plan for the clay. Clay begins as raw material with potential. It takes a potter to fashion it for its potential. No potter and the clay remains as is – filled with potential but never fashioned to fulfill its potential. No matter where you are in life God has a plan for you. Find some verses that echo God’s plan for mankind. How do these verses offer hope to you?

The potter has power over the clay. Clay must be worked on thoroughly in the potter’s hands. Because God loves you He won’t let you remain as you are. He’ll work on you, in you, and through you. Clay must be stretched. A potter will stretch the clay in order to mold it into the desired shape. What areas has God been stretching you in?

Clay may resist. Clay must be perfectly centered on the wheel. We must be in the center of the wheel to know God’s will. The moment we allow other things to take precedence we move from the center and begin to distort our shape. God will allow you to resist. That’s the beauty of free will. But by putting yourself in God’s hands you are allowing Him to shape you as seems best to Him.

The potter can remake the clay even when it resists. Clay must be investigated for bubbles that can destroy it. Just as a potter tests the pot, so God tests us, poking and prodding us for impurities which can destroy. God can take you how you are and shape you into what He wants you to be. Your past is in the past and God can shape a purpose-filled future if you let Him.

Final Thought: There’s an old saying that, “Father knows best.” Without falling into a passive mentality and a “whatever happens, happens” mindset we should remind ourselves that our Father in heaven knows best. The pride of man is our attempts to tell God how to use us (see Isaiah 45:9; Romans 9:20-21). “Father knows best;” let Him shape you.

Praying through Life’s Challenges

Pray that God molds you as seems best to Him. Also pray for patience to endure the “shelf seasons” and the times when God tests you for your impurities.

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Life Group Resource #15

“For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world...”
John 18:37 (NKJV)