

In the Potter's Hands

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON



Theme: God Created Us

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

Memory Verse: "Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8 (NIV)

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon:

You'll Need:

- **Modeling clay - some for each child**

Do This:

Give each child a ball of clay and tell them to hold it in their hands and listen for further instructions.

SAY: This morning I brought some clay. I'm sure that all of you have made things from clay or Play-Doh. There's even a job for making bowls, jars, art, and more from clay. Someone who does this is called a potter.

Today you're going to be one-minute potters. I'll call out a shape and you have one minute to make it. Ready? First, you have one minute to make a flower, go. (Allow kids one minute to mold the object.) Time's up, hold up those flowers. Okay next you have one minute to make a horse, go. (Allow kids one minute to mold the object.)

That was a bit harder. Hold up those horses. Okay lastly, you have one minute to make a vase, go. *(Allow kids one minute to mold the object.)* **Time is up. Hold up those vases. You were great one-minute potters today. Now roll your clay into a ball and set it in front of you.**

What happens to a piece of clay if you forget and leave it out for a long time? *(Invite kids to shout out answers.)* **It dries up and gets hard. When it's dried out, it's not easy to mold it into what we want it to be.**

That reminds me of what was happening to God's people during the day of the prophet Isaiah. In our Bible lesson today, Isaiah is very upset and is begging God to come down and change the hearts of his people. "We have sinned and turned away from You and You have become angry with us. How can we be saved? No one calls on Your name or pleads for Your mercy. You've turned away from us."

Sounds pretty hopeless, but Isaiah didn't think so. He knew if the people would turn back to God, He could mold them and shape them into what He wanted them to be--like clay. Isaiah said to God, "Oh Lord, you're our Father. We're the clay, and You're the potter. We're formed by your hand. Please don't be so angry with us, Look at us and see that we're Your people." Isaiah knew even though the hearts of God's people had become hard, God could still mold them into what He wanted them to be. *(Invite kids to mold their clay into heart shapes.)*

Just like the people in Isaiah's day, we sometimes stray away from God and our hearts become hard. All is not hopeless. If we will turn back to God and ask Him to forgive us, He can mold us and shape us into what He wants us to be. God is still the potter and we're still the clay! Hold the heart you made between your hands while we ask God to mold our hearts. *(Pause for a moment.)*

PRAY: Dear God, forgive us when we go astray. Take us in your hands and shape us into what You want us to be. In Jesus' name, amen.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Bible Memory Verse

"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8

You'll Need:

- **Clay**
- **Bibles - one per child**

Do This:

Divide the class into two teams giving each team plenty of clay.

- Invite kids to familiarize themselves with Isaiah 64:8.
- Explain that on the word "go," teams will use their clay to shape letters to write out today's Bible memory verse.
- The first team that writes out the Bible memory verse with clay wins.
- Congratulate both teams for their hard work.

ASK:

- How might we be the work of God's hands?
- What kinds of things do you think God does in our hearts?

SAY: Today we're learning that God is the potter and we're the clay. We are all a work of His hands. He molds our hearts so we can be more like Jesus. The best way He can shape us into all He wants us to be is to keep a soft heart before Him.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Bibles -- one per child
- ["In the Potter's Hands"](#) handouts - one per child
- Pens or pencils - one per child

Do This:

- Invite each child to turn in their Bibles to Isaiah 64:8.
- Give each child a handout.
- Have kids read the passage several times and list in the table what it says about who God is and who we are in the columns.
- As a class, review what they found.

ASK:

- Tell about a way we might try to be the potter ourselves.

- Why is it better to let God be the potter for us?

SAY: Today we're reminded that God our Father is our potter. We are the clay. We are a work of His hands. Sometimes we get the idea that we're in charge, but this is a great reminder that God the Father is in charge. He created us. We're a work of His hands.

“Making Pottery” Video Lesson

You'll Need:

- [“Making Pottery”](#) video lesson
- Something to play the video

Do This:

Show them the video.

ASK:

- What surprised you about the pottery-making process and why?
- What does it mean to you to know that you can be God's masterpiece when you let Him shape you?

Heart Snacks

You'll Need:

- **Homemade Rice Krispie treats - one per child**
- **Icing**
- **Sprinkles**
- **Plates - one per child**
- **Napkins - one per child**

Get Ready: Ahead of time, prepare Rice Krispie treats using extra marshmallows so they're easier for kids to mold.

Do This:

SAY: Think about how God might be molding you right now. Maybe He is teaching you to have patience with your brother or sister. Or maybe he is helping you be courageous to do something new. Mold your Rice Krispie treat into something simple that reminds you of what you were thinking of right now.

- Give each child a Rice Krispie treat.
- Explain that these treats have sat as squares for a while, so they could be hard to form.
- Allow time. As kids work, invite them to share what they're molding if they want to.
- Invite kids to add icing and sprinkles to their Rice Krispie treats.

ASK:

- **Explain whether it was easy or hard to form your treat.**
- **What are some reasons we might resist being formed by God?**

SAY: These treats were more difficult to shape now than right after they were made. When we don't trust God or we just want our own way, our hearts can be

like this. But when we place our hearts in His hands, God can mold us to be more like Him.

Clay Bowling

You'll Need:

- **Modeling clay**
- **Empty water bottles - 10 per group**

Get Ready: Before class, consider how many groups you want to form, based on the activity. Then roll up clay into balls so there is one for each group; let them dry completely.

Do This:

- Form groups, if desired, and have them set up their 10 empty water bottles into the shape of the pins at a bowling alley.
- Allow kids to take turns rolling the group's ball toward the pins to see how many they can knock down.
- Encourage kids to keep track of how many pins they were able to knock down.
- Invite kids to share how they did, and congratulate everyone.

ASK:

- **What was it like to roll these clay balls in the game?**
- **How do you think you're like or unlike the clay balls?**

SAY: Our clay balls didn't roll perfectly, but you all still managed to knock down some pins. Great job! Just like the clay balls, we're not perfect and we need someone who is perfect to mold and shape us. God is the potter and we're the clay. That means He shapes us to live lives that give Him glory.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Potter's Bowl

You'll Need:

- **Air Dry Clay - some for each child**
- **Toothpicks - one per child**
- **Plates - one per child**

Do This:

To make the potter's bowls have kids follow these steps:

- Give each child a paper plate, a lump of air dry clay, and a toothpick.
- Instruct kids to take their clay and form it into a bowl. They can be creative and form their bowl into any kind of bowl they want.
- After their bowls are formed, invite kids to use their toothpicks to carve this saying into the side of the bowl: "God is the potter. I am the clay."
- Explain to kids that you'll leave their creations out to dry for the week. When they come back, their bowls will be complete and ready to take home.

ASK:

- **Think about if your clay started telling you how it wanted to be formed--what does that make you think about when we try to tell God what to do?**

SAY: Today you were the creator of your bowl. You were the potter. We need to be reminded that with God we are not in charge. He is the potter, and we are the clay.

Hand Painted Prayers

You'll Need:

- **Newsprint**
- **Washable paint**

Do This:

- Help kids find their own spot on the newsprint.
- Explain that they will use their fingers and hands, dipped in paint to draw or write prayer requests they have for their lives.

SAY: Today we're reminded that God made us and we're works of His hands. That means He knows us better than anyone. So He knows the request you painted on the newsprint. Put your hand close to your painting and talk to Your Creator about that request.

Allow kids time to pray over their prayer requests.

PRAY: Dear God, You are the potter; we are just the clay. We are a work of Your hands and You made us. Because You know and love us, we know we can bring any request we have to You today. Please hear our prayers and open our eyes to how You answer them and show us Yourself. In Jesus' name, amen.

Virtual Lesson Tip

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Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- Song: "Into My Heart"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)
[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track
- Song: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)
[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track

Do This:

SAY: As we worship God through singing, remember that He's the potter and we're the clay. He's in charge. Let's offer our hearts to Him today as we sing.

Lead children in singing "Into My Heart" and "Have Thine Own Way, Lord."

If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

[In the Potter's Hands Crossword](#)

[In the Potter's Hands Decoder](#)

[In the Potter's Hands Word Search](#)

Complete Supply List:

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- [Pencils](#)
- Homemade Rice Krispie treats - one per child
- [Icing](#)
- [Sprinkles](#)
- [Plates](#)
- [Napkins](#) - one per child
- Empty water bottles - 10 per group
- [Air Dry Clay](#) - some for each child
- [Toothpicks](#) - one per child
- Newsprint
- [Washable paint](#)

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In the Potter's Hands

AT HOME LESSON

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