

The Potter And The Clay

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: We are the clay and God is the Potter

Scripture: Isaiah 64:8

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

The Children's Sermon

Do you think God will ever be finished with us, and we'll turn into a hardened piece of clay? I don't think so. He'll always be wanting us to be growing and changing and having new purposes.

So let's remember that no matter when good things or bad things happen to us, God is using them to shape us and form us because He loves us so much. Let's stay soft and squishy and open to God so he can do His work in our lives.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for being our Father. Help us to be the kind of clay that your Hands can work on so that we can be more like Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Now, let's think about clay for a moment. Have you ever played with clay or Play-Doh? You know how it feels when it's soft and easy to shape. You can make it into almost anything you want, right? But what happens if you leave it out too long? It gets hard and you can't change its shape anymore. Our hearts can be like that clay. If we keep them open to God, He can keep shaping us, making our Clay Transformation never-ending and full of surprises.

God is like the best artist ever, and He's making something beautiful out of us. Just like an artist has a plan for their clay, God has a plan for each of us. Sometimes, we might not understand what He's doing. We might think, "Why is this happening?" But just like clay in the artist's hands, we need to trust that God knows what He's doing. He's making us into beautiful creations, full of love, kindness, and all the good things He wants for us.

But how do we stay soft clay? How do we make sure we don't become hard and unable to change? One way is to talk to God. Just like you talk to your friends and tell them what's happening in your life, you can talk to God. Tell Him everything - what makes you happy, what makes you sad, and even what makes you mad. God listens, and He keeps our clay soft through His love and care.

Another way to stay soft is to listen to God. This might sound a bit harder, because God doesn't usually speak out loud. But He talks to us in different ways - through stories in the Bible, through things that happen to us, and through other people. When we listen, really listen, we can hear God's guidance, helping us to stay on the right path, the path that keeps our clay ready for transformation.

And don't forget, clay transformation isn't just about us. It's about how we can help others too. When we let God shape us, we start to see the world differently. We see people who might need a friend, or someone who's sad and needs cheering up. God uses us, His clay, to spread love and kindness in the world. It's like we become little artists too, working with God to make the world a better place.

Remember, clay transformation is a never-ending journey. It doesn't matter if you're young or old. God is always ready to shape us, to help us grow and learn. And the most amazing part? As we change, as we become more like Jesus, we get to experience the joy and peace that comes from knowing we're exactly where God wants us to be.

So, let's be excited about our clay transformation. Let's stay soft and open to God's touch. Let's talk to Him, listen to Him, and be ready to spread His love everywhere we go. And whenever we feel like we're starting to harden, let's remember to ask God to make us soft again, ready for whatever beautiful shape He has in mind for us next.

In closing, let's pray together: Dear God, thank You for loving us and for never giving up on us. Help us to stay soft clay in Your hands, ready for the wonderful transformations You have planned for us. Help us to listen to You, talk to You, and spread Your love to others. We want to be part of Your beautiful artwork, today and every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Remember, kids, every day is a chance for a new clay transformation. Let's make the most of it, with God's help!

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 Will Need:

- Playdough or modeling clay
- Plastic tablecloth or newspapers
- Child-safe sculpting tools or plastic knives

Get Ready:

- Spread the plastic tablecloth or newspapers on a table to create a clean workspace.
- Gather enough playdough or modeling clay and sculpting tools for each child.

Do This:

1. Begin by reciting the memory verse together. Explain that just like clay is shaped by a potter, God shapes and guides us because He loves us.
2. Give each child a portion of playdough or modeling clay. Encourage them to create something unique, reminding them that God makes each of us special.
3. As they work on their creations, discuss how the potter (God) has a purpose for the clay (us), and how we can trust Him to shape us into beautiful creations.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Playdough (various colors)
- Plastic tablecloths or mats
- Simple illustrations of pottery (cups, bowls, plates)

Get Ready:

- Cover the activity area with plastic tablecloths or mats.
- Divide playdough into small portions for each child.
- Display the illustrations of pottery where all the children can see them.

Do this:

1. Tell the children they are going to be like potters, and the playdough is their clay.

2. Show them the illustrations of pottery and ask them to choose one to try and make with their playdough.
3. As they play and create, explain that just like they are shaping the playdough, God shapes us into what He wants us to be because He loves us.

Snack Activity: Potter's Play Dough Snacks

You'll Need:

- Ready-to-eat cookie dough (store-bought or homemade)
- Mini pretzel sticks
- Plastic knives or child-safe utensils

Get Ready: Divide the cookie dough into small portions, one for each child.

Do this:

1. Give each child a portion of cookie dough. Explain that the dough is like clay and we are going to be like potters, but instead of making pots, we're going to make something special to remind us that God is the Potter and we are the clay.
2. Encourage the children to use their hands to shape the dough into simple shapes or figures. They can roll it, flatten it, or try to make a simple animal or heart.
3. Use mini pretzel sticks as decoration or tools to add details to their creations. Remind them that just like they are creating and shaping their dough, God shapes and molds us with His loving hands.
4. Once they are happy with their creations, they can eat their 'clay' snacks. As they eat, reinforce the message that God is always working in our lives, shaping us to be more like Him.

Game Activity: Potter's Clay Hop

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A large, open sidewalk or driveway
- Small stones or beanbags

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw several large pots on the ground, each big enough for a child to stand in. Inside each pot, draw a simple shape (circle, square, triangle, etc.). Make sure there's enough space between each pot for kids to hop.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that in the Bible, God is described as the Potter and we are His clay. Just like a potter shapes clay into beautiful pots, God shapes and guides us.
2. Have the children stand at the starting line. Throw the small stones or beanbags into different pots.
3. Ask the children to hop from pot to pot to collect the stones or beanbags. When they hop into a pot, encourage them to say, 'God shapes me!' This will help them remember that God is always working in our lives, shaping us with His loving hands.

Craft Activity: God is the Potter, We are the Clay

You'll Need:

- Air-dry clay
- Plastic tablecloth or newspapers
- Child-safe clay tools or plastic utensils

Get Ready: Cover your work area with the plastic tablecloth or newspapers to make cleanup easier.

Do this:

1. Read Isaiah 64:8 to the children, simplifying it to: 'Just like a potter shapes clay into beautiful pots, God shapes and guides us because He loves us.'
2. Give each child a small amount of air-dry clay. Encourage them to knead and shape it into a simple form, such as a small bowl or animal, using their hands or the plastic utensils.
3. As they work on their clay creations, talk to them about how God shapes us and molds us to be good and loving people. Explain that just like they are creating something unique with the clay, God has a special plan for each of us.