

# The Potter And The Clay

## LOWER ELEMENTARY 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
- Small rolling pins or sturdy plastic cups

Get Ready:

- Spread the plastic tablecloth or newspapers on a table to create a clean work surface.
- Gather enough playdough or modeling clay so each child can have a small amount to work with.

Do This:

1. Give each child a piece of playdough or modeling clay and ask them to shape it into anything they like, reminding them that just like they are shaping the clay, God shapes us.
2. While they are shaping, recite the memory verse together. Repeat a few times to help them memorize it.
3. After everyone has finished their creations, have a short discussion. Ask them how it felt to make something out of the clay and relate it to how God is always working in our lives, shaping us to be more like Him.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Air-dry clay (enough for each child to have a small ball)
- Plastic tablecloths (for easy cleanup)
- A large poster or whiteboard
- Markers

Get Ready:

- Cover the tables with plastic tablecloths.
- Write Isaiah 64:8 at the top of the poster or whiteboard.
- Divide the clay into small balls, one for each child.

Do this:

1. **Introduction:** Start by reading Isaiah 64:8 together as a class. Explain that in this verse, God is described as the Potter, and we are described as the clay. Ask the children what they know about how a potter works with clay.
2. **Clay Activity:** Give each child a ball of air-dry clay. Encourage them to shape it into anything they want, explaining that just like they are creating something out of clay, God shapes and molds us according to His plan. Remind them that sometimes, just like clay, we go through pressure and changes to become what God wants us to be.
3. **Discussion and Drawing:** After everyone has finished their clay creation, gather the children in a circle. Ask them to share what they made and why. Then, on the poster or whiteboard, invite them to draw or write how they think God is shaping them or might want to shape them in the future. This could include qualities like kindness, bravery, or faith.
4. **Closing:** End with a short prayer, asking God to continue shaping each of us according to His perfect plan, thanking Him for being our Potter, and asking for the courage and strength to be moldable clay in His hands.

## Snack Activity: Potter's Playful Pudding Cups

You'll Need:

- Chocolate pudding cups
- Oreo cookies (crushed)
- Gummy worms
- Plastic spoons

- Small plastic cups

Get Ready: Prepare a clean workspace with all the ingredients and supplies. Make sure each child has a small cup and a plastic spoon.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like clay in the hands of a potter, we are in God's hands. He shapes us and molds us according to His plan. Isaiah 64:8 tells us that we are the clay, and God is our potter.
2. Give each child a pudding cup. Tell them this represents us - soft and moldable in God's hands. Have them scoop their pudding into the small plastic cups.
3. Let them sprinkle the crushed Oreo cookies on top of the pudding. Explain that the 'dirt' represents the challenges and experiences we go through. God uses these to shape us and help us grow.
4. Finally, have them place a gummy worm on top. This represents the new life and growth that comes from being shaped by God's loving hands.
5. As they enjoy their snack, remind them that God is always working in our lives, shaping us into the people He wants us to be.

## Game Activity: Potter's Path

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small ball or beanbag
- A blindfold

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a large, winding path on the ground, making sure there are wide turns and maybe a few dead ends. At certain points along the path,

draw symbols that represent different ways God shapes us (like a heart for love, a cross for faith, or a smiley face for joy).

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like clay in the hands of a potter, we are shaped by God. The path represents our life's journey, with God guiding us even when we can't see the way.
2. One child at a time is blindfolded at the start of the path. They must roll the ball or toss the beanbag ahead of them and follow it, trying to stay on the path and identify the symbols by touch or by memory if they've seen them before being blindfolded.
3. The other children can give gentle directions to help guide the blindfolded child, reminding them that God's guidance is sometimes like the quiet voices of friends and the Bible, helping us find our way. After each child has a turn, discuss the symbols and how they represent the ways God shapes and guides us.

## Craft Activity: God's Masterpiece Clay Pots

You'll Need:

- Air-dry clay
- Rolling pin
- Plastic knives
- Watercolor paints and brushes
- Small bowls of water
- Paper plates

Get Ready: Cover your crafting area with newspaper or a plastic tablecloth to keep it clean. Place air-dry clay, rolling pins, and plastic knives on the table. Set up a painting

station with watercolor paints, brushes, and small bowls of water. Distribute paper plates for each child to work on.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Isaiah 64:8 together. Discuss how God is like the potter and we are like the clay. He shapes us and makes us into beautiful creations according to His plan.
2. Give each child a lump of air-dry clay. Using the rolling pin, instruct them to flatten the clay on their paper plate to about 1/4 inch thickness. They can use plastic knives to shape their clay into a small pot or any shape they feel inspired to create, reminding them that they are like the clay in God's hands.
3. Once their clay creations are shaped, allow them to dry according to the clay package instructions. After drying, let the children paint their clay pots with watercolors. As they paint, encourage them to think about the unique colors and designs they are adding, just like how God makes each of us unique and special.
4. After the paint has dried, gather the children and share that just like they created something beautiful out of clay, God is continually working in our lives, shaping and molding us into His masterpieces.