

Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

The Potter

Jeremiah 18-20

Memory Verse

Treasure is kept in clay jars.
In the same way, we have
the treasure of the good news
in these earthly bodies of ours.
That shows that the mighty power
of the good news
comes from God.
It doesn't come from us.
(II Corinthians 4:7 NIrV)

Goals

1. Understand that God sent Jeremiah to the potter's house.
2. Recognize that we are like clay pots.
3. Learn that God wants to reshape us.
4. Understand that God gives us opportunities to do right.

Last week we learned that God chose Jeremiah to be His prophet before he was born. Jeremiah was young when God called him. God promised to be with Jeremiah and God gave Jeremiah the words he needed to speak. God sent Jeremiah to tell Israel that their enemies would attack them because of the evil they had done. But God is merciful and He did not allow Israel's enemies to overcome them.

Read the Bible

READ: Jeremiah 18:1-12 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

One day God told Jeremiah to go to a potter's house (Jeremiah 18:1-2). A potter is a person who makes clay pots. Clay pots were used for cooking and for holding water, oil, and grain.

Potters shaped the clay into pots with their hands while the clay was spinning on a flat wheel. Jeremiah noticed how the pot maker shaped the pots. (Jeremiah 18:3). Sometimes the pot would not form right or it would be bent over. When this happened, the pot maker would form the clay into a round ball and try again.

God wants to mold and shape us so that others can know His love. God explained to Jeremiah that sometimes we are like those clay pots. Sometimes things happen and God has to reshape us. God told Jeremiah that He wanted to make us into the best people that we can be. "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?... Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel." (Jeremiah 18:5-7).

God wanted to allow Israel to receive all the blessings He had for them. But Israel did wrong. They did not obey God. They did things that displeased God. So He sent Jeremiah to tell them that they needed to leave their sin. "So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions." (Jeremiah 18:8-11)

God wanted Israel to do what was right. But Israel wanted to continue doing what they wanted to do. God said that each one wanted to follow

The Potter – Bible Facts

1. God sent Jeremiah to the potter's house.
2. Jeremiah saw the potter molding the clay.
3. God said, "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand."
4. God said He would bring destruction to Israel because they chose to disobey.

the stubbornness of his evil heart. " (Jeremiah 18:12) Have you ever insisted on doing your own thing or insisted on doing things your way? That is what Israel was doing.

God said that Israel had forgotten Him. They worshipped idols instead of worshipping God. They burned incense to idols which greatly displeased God. Jeremiah told the people of Israel that what they were doing was wrong. The people did not like it. They made plans to kill him because he spoke the truth. (Jeremiah 18:13-23) Have you ever had someone tell you that what you were doing was wrong? How did you respond?

God told Jeremiah to take a jar and break it. This was a sign of what God would do to Israel (bring destruction) because they chose to disobey Him. (Jeremiah 19:10-12)

Jeremiah's job as a prophet was to tell the people that God would bring destruction because of their sin. (Jeremiah 20) He was not very popular, but Jeremiah obeyed God. Jesus obeyed God, too. He came to die in our place so that our sins can be forgiven, but we have to choose to leave our sin and follow God. He will shape and mold us, if we allow Him.

Review

1. **Where did God send Jeremiah?** (God sent Jeremiah to the potter's house.)
2. **What did Jeremiah see?** (Jeremiah saw the potter molding the clay.)
3. **What did God say to Israel?** (God said, "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand.")
4. **What else did God say?** (God said He would bring destruction to Israel because they chose to disobey.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God said that He would forgive the sins of Israel if they would leave their sin. God will do the same for us. If we ask God for forgiveness, He will forgive. Jesus died and rose from the dead providing the way for us to be forgiven. If we invite Him to be a part of our lives, He will come. Would you like to trust in Jesus? (Romans 10:9-10) If you would like to know more, talk to your teacher about it.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we could be forgiven.
3. Ask God to mold and shape you into what He wants you to be.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to allow God to mold and shape them.

Application

God gives us opportunities to do right so others can know His love. God sent Jeremiah to the potter's house. God said that we are like clays pots that He wants to reshape. "In the same way, we have the treasure of the good news in these earthly bodies of ours. That shows that the mighty power of the Good News comes from God. It doesn't come from us." (II Corinthians 4:7 NIV)

Planning for Next Week

Exile Foretold — Jeremiah 25-29

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Jeremiah 18:1-12 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

•**Teachers:** Bring play dough or make some and let the children make clay pots.

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God wants to mold and shape us so that others can know His love. God explained to Jeremiah that sometimes we are like those clay pots. Sometimes things happen and God has to reshape us.

God wanted Israel to receive all the good things He had for them, but Israel did wrong. They did not obey God. They did things that displeased God so He sent Jeremiah to tell them that they needed to leave their sin.

Israel wanted to continue doing what they wanted to do. Have you ever insisted on doing your own thing or insisted on doing things God's way (right way)? That what Israel was doing. God wanted Israel to do what was right.

We have to choose to leave our sin and follow God. He will shape and mold us, if we allow Him.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we could be forgiven.
3. Ask God to mold and shape you into what He wants you to be.

Memory verse for younger children

The mighty power of the good news comes from God. II Corinthians 4:7

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Write the memory verse on a blank piece of paper. Cut the verse into puzzle shapes. Put the puzzle together to learn the verse.
- **Test your memory** — Bring coloring pictures of clay pots. As you are telling the story ask the children to write key words on the coloring pages. Ask the children to retell the story.
- **Taste activity** — Bring individually wrapped candy. Put it in a clay pot. Allow the children to take a piece of candy from the pot.
- **Think about it**— Israel chose to live in their sin even after Jeremiah told them that God would bring destruction. Talk about what Jeremiah might have felt.

Jeremiah had to deliver bad news. Talk about what Jeremiah might have felt.
- **Touch activity** — Bring play dough or make some and let the children make clay pots.

Bring toy plastic pots. Let one of the children dress up like Jeremiah and thrown down the pot. Ask the child to read a portion of the Bible story from the Bible.
- **Run and play** — Play “What Time is it Mr. Wolf?”

Make poster boards with the words “Potter’s House,” “Israel,” etc. (words from the story). Place the words in different locations in a circular pattern. Put the children in two to four teams. Assign one person in each team to call out the name of the area her team is supposed to run to. Ask the teams to listen to their caller. Ask the callers to name a location simultaneously with the other three callers.
- **Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to obey Him.
- **Sing** — Sing “Change My Heart, O God,” “Obedience,” “The Lord Has A Will,” “Trust and Obey,” or another song related to the story.
- **Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts with the Bible verse to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

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II Corinthians 4:7

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

WE ARE

LIKE

CLAY

Word Search

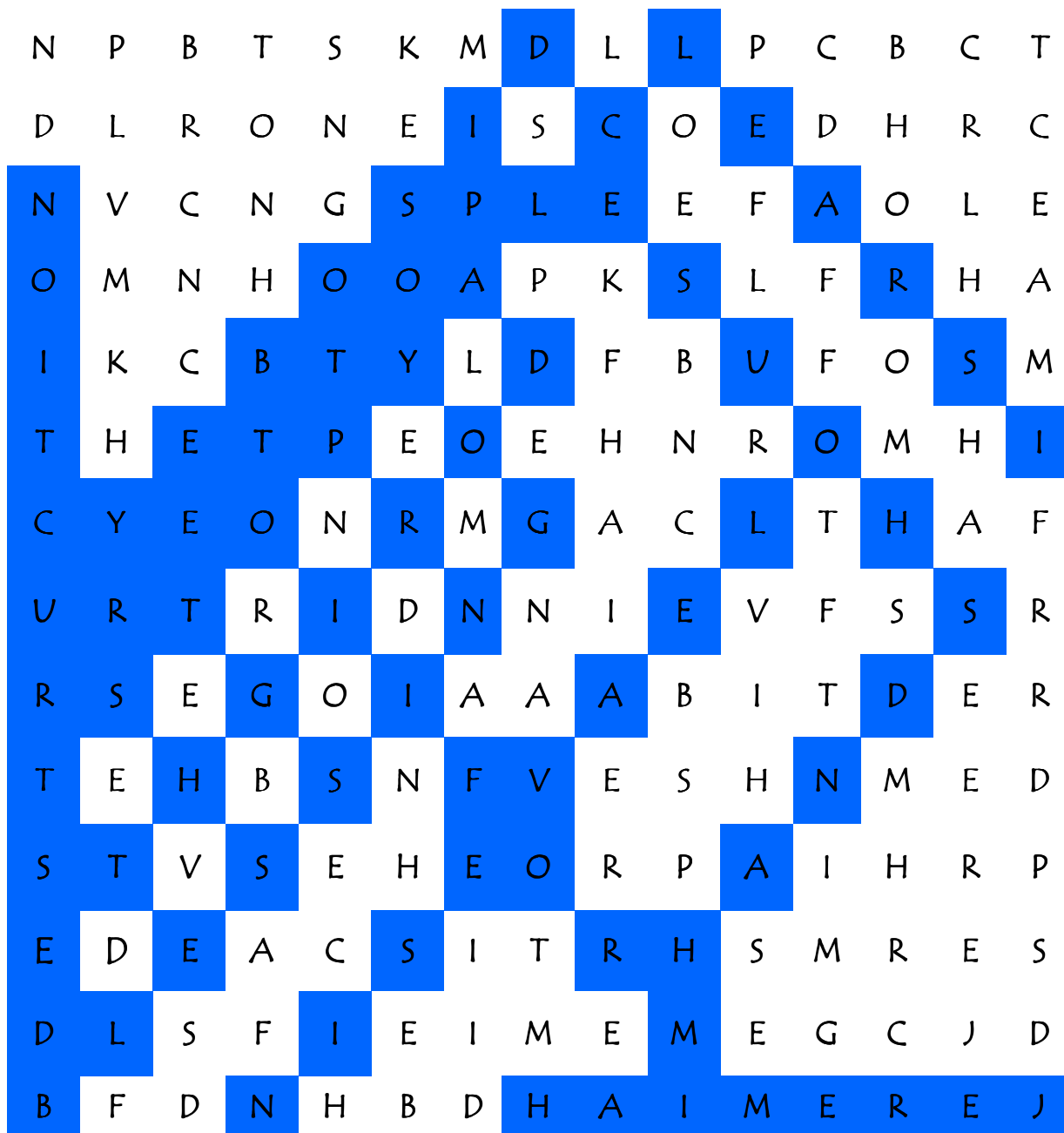
N P B T S K M D L L P C B C T
D L R O N E I S C O E D H R C
N V C N G S P L E E F A O L E
O M N H O O A P K S L F R H A
I K C B T Y L D F B U F O S M
T H E T P E O E H N R O M H I
C Y E O N R M G A C L T H A F
U R T R I D N N I E V F S S R
R S E G O I A A A B I T D E R
T E H B S N F V E S H N M E D
S T V S E H E O R P A I H R P
E D E A C S I T R H S M R E S
D L S F I E I M E M E G C J D
B F D N H B D H A I M E R E J

POTTER
HOUSE
ISRAEL
DO RIGHT

CLAY POTS
HANDS
BLESSING
DISOBEY

JEREMIAH
FORM
LEAVE SIN
DESTRUCTION

Word Search



POTTER

HOUSE

ISRAEL

DO RIGHT

CLAY POTS

HANDS

BLESSING

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JEREMIAH

FORM

LEAVE SIN

DESTRUCTION

Word Search

N P P G D B F K P C B C T
D L R O N E T O B D H R C
T V W F B G D G H O U S E
C M N H E W S T H A N D S
G K D G B F K D T F O R M
R H S P Y E B N R H M H F
M R C R K M P N N O G A F
E F D R I D K L N F W I R
M N J K D G M P O T T E R
D E I B C N D S H C L A Y
N N P R F B H G T P O T S
G D I A C P I D S M R T S

POTTER

CLAY

POTS

HOUSE

HANDS

FORM

Word Search

N P P G D B F K P C B C T
D L R O N E T O B D H R C
T V W F B G D G H O U S E
C M N H E W S T H A N D S
G K D G B F K D T F O R M
R H S P Y E B N R H M H F
M R C R K M P N N O G A F
E F D R I D K L N F W I R
M N J K D G M P O T T E R
D E I B C N D S H C L A Y
N N P R F B H G T P O T S
G D I A C P I D S M R T S

POTTER

CLAY

POTS

HOUSE

HANDS

FORM

Anagram

TSRRAEEU

LCYA

RAJS

OGDO WESN

YATRHEL

OSBIDE

GYMTHI

REPWO

OGD



Anagram

TREASURE

CLAY

JARS

GOOD NEWS

EARTHLY

BODIES

MIGHTY

POWER

GOD