

05 THE MASTER POTTER

KEY TEXT: JEREMIAH 18:1-12

CENTRAL truth

Judah's centuries-long persistent sinning deserved judgment. Though God had already announced judgment on Judah, He still wanted to forgive them. If they repented, He would spare them the judgment their sin deserved. The same good God extends grace to us and all who come to Him. No matter our past, **God will show mercy and grace when we repent.**

key question

If God is just and righteous, why does He want to show sinners mercy and grace?

God didn't create us to condemn us; He created us so we could know, glorify, and enjoy Him forever. Without Christ, we're headed for destruction. But like a potter's power over clay, God can redeem and restore us into what He created us to be. Jeremiah called on Judah to repent and receive God's restoration. If we'll repent and trust in Christ, our future is not destruction, but eternal salvation in God.

keep in mind

- The Bible is filled with metaphors and analogies to help us understand the ways of God. Make sure students understand what a potter is and how pottery is traditionally made. The power a potter has over clay is a wonderful illustration of how God can change and transform our lives.
- Emphasize God's desire to forgive and spare people judgment for their sin. As imperfect people, we can tend to want to see everybody get what they deserve for their mistakes and sins (except ourselves, of course). If we don't receive God's forgiveness, we will receive His judgment. However, it's clearly God's desire to take people headed for destruction and forgive, redeem, and restore them to Himself.

application

Why will our plans for our lives never be as good as God's plans? How should we live in response to this?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students have the opportunity to see that they're God's special creation for His special purposes. We are not made to rule our own lives and live for our own purposes. God's plans for us lead to His highest glory and our greatest good. Encourage students to remain submitted to the Potter's hands as He molds and shapes them for His amazing purposes.

FOR THE LEADER: Share from your own story of how surrendering to God's plans is always better than living for your plans. Share how you've needed to repent and seek forgiveness for times you tried to rule your life instead of God.

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