

Jeremiah 18: 1-11~ The Parable of the Potter (Children's Reformation Sunday Story)

Overview:

Jeremiah's metaphor of the potter and the clay gives us a vivid image of our relationship with God, reminding us that God desires to mold and shape us into the people God created us to be. Through this metaphor, children of all ages can understand that God creates us, God loves us, and God wants us to reshape our lives so that we are a true reflection of God's own image.

Key Points:

- The Lord created us all, and made each of us to be the special person that we are.
- The Lord loves us and cares for us every day.
- We all have our faults. The Lord wants to work with us to overcome them so that we can be kind and understanding people.

Thoughts: *(have a clay pottery item on visual display for the children to admire and give each child a small piece of putty to form while telling the story)*

Talk about the process of a potter shaping the clay into a beautiful and useful pot.

Sometimes the clay on the potter's wheel doesn't shape properly, sometimes so badly that the potter has to ball it up and start over again. A patient potter keeps working with the clay, shaping and reshaping the clay until it becomes what it is intended to be.

The prophet Jeremiah tells about a potter in the Bible, and he says that God is like a potter and we (God's people) are like the clay. Just like a potter has a plan for what she's going to make out of a lump of clay, God has a plan for each one of us because God made us to be like him - loving, kind, caring, and good. Sometimes we don't cooperate with God's plan for us. Just like the clay that doesn't always cooperate, we can sometimes be selfish, mean, or grumpy, or even do wrong things. But like a patient potter, God keeps working on us - forming and re-forming us into the people that God made us to be.

How does God keep re-forming us? God teaches us what is good through the Bible, through the example and teaching of Jesus, and through the church. When we pray and ask for God's help, the Holy Spirit works on us too, turning our hearts towards what is right and good.

And today, as we commemorate Reformation Sunday, we remember that God doesn't only work on each one of us, but God keeps working on the whole church together - teaching us, guiding us, correcting us, and reforming us together into the church that God intends us to be.

Prayer: Loving God, we come to you as your reformed children, remembering that we are still reforming each day. Bless the children here today. May they realize that each day of their lives, if they give themselves to you, you will keep on shaping them in love and faith to follow you. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.