

The Potter Is Still Calling

A One Week Bible Study Guide

Primary Passage:

- Jeremiah 18:1-11

Other Scriptures Mentioned:

- Matthew 4:17
- Acts 2:38

Introduction

God can use ordinary things to teach us extraordinary truths. In Jeremiah 18, God sent Jeremiah to a potter's workshop so he could see a message before he heard it. Jeremiah watched a potter work with clay, reshape a flawed vessel, and continue working according to his purpose. The picture became a powerful lesson about God, His authority, His mercy, and His call for His people to respond to His voice.

This week, we will slow down and look closely at the Potter and the clay. We will consider what it means to recognize God's authority, trust His work, respond when He speaks, and turn back to Him through Jesus. The goal is not simply to understand Jeremiah 18 better. It is to ask a personal question: What is God saying to me, and how will I respond?

Day 1

Theme: Look at the Potter

Scripture(s) for this day:

- Jeremiah 18:1-3

Key thought for this day:

Before God gave Jeremiah an explanation, He gave him an invitation: "Go to the potter's house." Jeremiah had to stop, watch, and pay attention.

Sometimes we become so focused on trying to understand everything God is doing that we forget to look at the One who is doing it. Jeremiah came expecting a message from God, but God first invited him to watch His work.

The potter was already working when Jeremiah arrived. The wheel was turning. The clay was already in the potter's hands. Jeremiah did not arrive to start the process. He arrived to observe it.

There may be times when we want God to explain everything to us immediately. But sometimes God first calls us to stop, look, and pay attention to what He is doing.

Questions:

1. What stands out to you about God's instruction to Jeremiah in verses 1-3?
2. Why do you think God sent Jeremiah to the potter's house instead of simply telling him the message?
3. Are you currently more focused on understanding what God is doing or on looking to God Himself?
4. What might God be asking you to stop and pay attention to?

Reflection:

Jeremiah's first lesson was not about the clay. It was about the Potter. Before you try to understand everything happening around you, take time to look at the One who is at work. God is not absent. The wheel is turning. The Potter is working.

Daily Prayer:

God, help me to slow down and pay attention to You. When I am focused on understanding everything You are doing, help me look first at You. Open my eyes to see Your work in my life. Amen.

Day 2

Theme: The Potter Keeps Working

Scripture(s) for this day:

- Jeremiah 18:3-4

Key thought for this day:

The vessel became flawed, but the potter did not throw it away. He continued working with the same clay.

Jeremiah does not tell us why the vessel became flawed. Instead, he focuses on what the potter did next. The potter formed the clay into another vessel, “as it seemed best for him to do.”

The flaw changed the vessel. It did not change the potter.

The potter did not panic. He did not abandon his work. He continued shaping the clay according to his purpose.

There may be flaws in our lives that we wish were not there. There may be places where we have failed, struggled, or gone in a direction we should not have gone. But the message of the potter is that the work does not have to end there.

Questions:

1. What did the potter do when the vessel became flawed?
2. What does the potter's response reveal about his purpose and patience?
3. Are there areas of your life where you feel defined by a flaw or failure?
4. What would it look like for you to trust God while He continues shaping your life?

Reflection:

The clay was not in control of the process. The potter was. The vessel did not determine what it would become. The potter continued shaping it according to what seemed best to him. When you see flaws in your own life, remember to look at the Potter. His work is not finished simply because the clay is flawed.

Daily Prayer:

God, thank You that my flaws do not cause You to abandon me. Help me trust Your hands as You continue shaping my life. Make me willing to become what You desire me to be. Amen.

Day 3

Theme: Trust the Potter's Authority

Scripture(s) for this day:

- Jeremiah 18:5-10

Key thought for this day:

God told Jeremiah that the potter represented Him and the clay represented His people. The Potter has authority over the clay.

God asked, "Can I not do with you as this potter does?" The question was not about God's ability. It was about whether His people recognized who He was.

God is the Creator and Covenant God. He has authority over His people. His character does not change. He remains holy, just, and merciful.

God also reminded Israel that their response mattered. When people turned from evil, God extended mercy. When people turned away from Him, they experienced judgment. The Potter has authority, but He is not distant from His people. His dealings with them reveal His consistent character.

Questions:

1. What does the potter's authority over the clay teach you about God's authority over His people?
2. Why is it important to remember that God's character does not change?
3. How does your response to God reveal whether you recognize His authority?
4. Is there an area of your life where you are struggling to trust God's authority?

Reflection:

Recognizing God as the Potter means recognizing that He has the right to shape our lives according to His purposes. We do not get to decide what God should do and then ask Him to follow our plans. We are the clay in His hands. The question is whether we will trust the Potter and respond to Him.

Daily Prayer:

God, help me recognize Your authority in my life. You are my Creator and my God. Give me a heart that trusts You and is willing to follow Your direction, even when Your plans are different from mine. Amen.

Day 4

Theme: When God Speaks, Respond

Scripture(s) for this day:

- Jeremiah 18:11

Key thought for this day:

God did not give Jeremiah the illustration simply so he could understand it. He gave it so His people would respond.

After explaining the lesson of the potter, God told Judah, “So now... turn.” That phrase matters. God was not simply announcing judgment and walking away. He was giving His people another opportunity to respond. The word turn means to turn around, change direction, and go back.

That is repentance.

Repentance is more than feeling guilty. It is more than wishing things were different. Repentance means turning.

God's message to Judah required a response, and His voice still calls us to respond today.

Questions:

1. What does God mean when He tells His people to “turn”?
2. Why is repentance more than simply feeling guilty?
3. Is there an area where God has been speaking to you but you have delayed responding?
4. What would turning toward God look like in that area?

Reflection:

It is possible to hear God's voice and still resist His direction. We can understand what He is saying without actually responding to Him. Jeremiah 18 reminds us that God's invitation requires a response.

Do not simply acknowledge what God is saying. Respond.

Daily Prayer:

God, show me where I need to turn back to You. Give me courage to respond to Your voice instead of delaying or resisting. Help me take the step of obedience You are asking me to take. Amen.

Day 5

Theme: Turn to Jesus

Scripture(s) for this day:

- Jeremiah 18:11
- Matthew 4:17
- Acts 2:38

Key thought for this day:

The call to turn back to God did not end with Jeremiah. Centuries later, John the Baptist and Jesus continued calling people to repentance. Peter preached the same message at Pentecost.

But Jesus did more than call us to repentance. He made restoration possible. We have all been flawed. We have not always responded perfectly to God. But Jesus took upon Himself the judgment our sin deserved. He died in our place and rose again so that everyone who turns to Him in faith can be forgiven, restored, and made new. That is the hope of the gospel.

The message of Jeremiah 18 is not simply, "Look at the Potter." It is, "When the Potter speaks, respond."

So the question for today is personal: What is God saying to you?

Questions:

1. What has God been saying to you throughout this study?
2. Where has the Holy Spirit been putting His finger on your heart?
3. Is there a step of obedience you have been delaying?
4. What would it look like for you to turn to Jesus and respond to what He is saying?

Reflection:

Take some time today to sit quietly before God. Think about the questions you have considered throughout this study.

What is God saying to me?

Where am I resisting His direction?

What do I need to surrender?

What step of obedience have I been delaying?

You do not have to compare your response with someone else's. You do not need to answer for your spouse, your children, your parents, or anyone else. This is between you and the Lord.

If God has spoken to your heart, respond. Turn to Him. Trust Him. Walk with Him. The Potter is still calling His people to Himself.

Daily Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for making restoration possible. Thank You for taking the judgment my sin deserved, dying in my place, and rising again. Help me respond when You speak. Show me where I need to turn, what I need to surrender, and what step of obedience I need to take. I want to trust You, walk with You, and become what You desire me to be. Amen.