

Lesson C2.7 - God Changes Us



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Jeremiah 18:1-11, 18-20

► Bible Characters: Jeremiah, God, potter

God told Jeremiah to go to a potter's shop. Jeremiah obeyed, and as he watched the potter work, God spoke to him. The message was simple: If his people did not change their ways, God would need to re-form them, just as the potter was doing to the clay. This would be for their ultimate good.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Prophets

A prophet is a person chosen to speak the direct Word of God. Over the years, God sent many prophets to speak his Word and warn of coming dangers. But God also promised that he would never forsake his people, and would restore the nation in faith.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune of the **Alphabet Song**.

Welcome everyone today!

Now let's settle down and pray.

Thank you, Lord, that we are here.

Keep us healthy through the year.

Help us listen, learn and grow.

Teach us all that we should know. Amen!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Raise your hand if you've ever worked with clay before. One of the fun things about clay is this: if you make something lopsided, you can fix it and make it new again! In some ways, we are like that clay and God is like a potter. How? When we need it, God works on us and makes us better. **God changes us**. Say that with me: **God changes us!**

If you could make anything out of clay, what would it be?

In today's story, one of God's servants is sent to watch a potter do his work. As he does this, God speaks to him. What does he learn? **God changes us!** Let's hear our story to find out more!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: God uses all sorts of people and things to teach important lessons. In Bible times, God sometimes sent his servants to unusual places to show them what he wanted them to say.

Read the caption: There was once a man named Jeremiah. He was a servant of God. Sometimes he had to warn people. It wasn't easy to do.

- What is happening in this picture? [*Jeremiah is walking to a potter's shop.*]
- Why is Jeremiah carrying a big stick? [*Prophets often walked long distances on foot. A stick like that could help him walk and protect him from wild animals too.*]



Picture 2

Tell the children: Potters are people who work with clay. In Jeremiah's time, they made all the cups, plates, bowls, vases, and other containers for their community. God understood their work, and wanted Jeremiah to learn from them.

Read the caption: Jeremiah went to a potter's shop. He saw the potter making a vase. Not happy with it, the potter squished clay remade it better.

- What do you think the potter is making in this picture? How might that be used? [*A vase or a pot. It can hold water, plants, or other things of that sort.*]
- What would you like to make if you were a potter? [*Call on volunteers.*]



Picture 3

Tell the children: As Jeremiah watched, he saw that the potter was very skilled. He wanted what he made to be perfect. Even when things went wrong, the potter kept working to make it right.

Read the caption: God told Jeremiah, "I am like that potter. When people don't listen to me, I have to fix and re-form them, just like that vase."

- How would you feel if you were a potter and needed to re-form a vase or a pot like this? [*Call on volunteers*]
- The potter in this picture keeps working until the pot is well made. How is that like God with us? [*God never gives up on his people, either. He keeps working on us.*]



Picture 4

Tell the children: After understanding what God wanted him to know, Jeremiah left the potter's shop. It was time to tell the people that they needed to change their ways. He hoped they would listen to what he had to say.

Read the caption: Jeremiah shared this message with the people. He trusted God. He knew God would reshape them into something good.

- What do you think Jeremiah is saying in this picture? [*Call on volunteers.*]
- How do you think the people will react to his message? [*They may not like it at first, but will see the good in it over time.*]

Remember today's message: **God changes us!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*God said to Jeremiah, "Go,
I have something I will show.
At the potter's you will see
what my people mean to me."*

*So Jeremiah went that day
and saw the potter shaping clay.
When the pot did not please him,
the potter shaped the pot again.*

*Jeremiah heard God say,
"My people are like potter's clay.
"Their whole lives are in my hands,
and only I can make them stand!"*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)**Craft: Coiled Pot****Materials:**

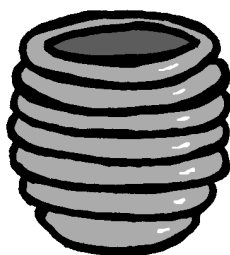
- Clay
- Toothpicks
- Small paper plates

Instructions:

Give each child a good-sized piece of clay, a small paper plate as a work surface, and a toothpick.

Encourage everyone to make a pot of any kind with their clay. Don't give them instructions on how to do this — just let them be creative in their approach. They may try a variety of methods. It doesn't matter if these are successful or not.

After they have tried to make their own version of a pot, invite kids to "re-form" their clay into something specific — a coil pot. They can do this by first rolling the clay into a long rope shape. To create a pot, tuck one end of the clay rope tightly around itself and then coil it around and up until it creates a pot. (This may take several tries.) Rub along the finished pot to give it a smoother appearance. If kids aren't happy with their coil pot, they can re-shape it again using another method — and can do so several times. If they so choose, kids can decorate their pot further by poking holes in it with a toothpick to make a design.

**h. Song (optional)**

This classic, traditional hymn can be found on YouTube, Vimeo, or online children's music sites.

Sing this at a fast, upbeat pace. Invite kids to do the actions that are listed in italics. Sing this through once, then repeat.

What a Mighty God We Serve

What a mighty God we serve!
(Clap in rhythm)

What a mighty God we serve!
(Clap in rhythm)

Angels bow before him, (Bow)

Heaven and earth adore him, (Hold up hands)

What a mighty God we serve! (Clap in rhythm)

**i. Story Review: Then What Happened?**

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: Jeremiah was a servant of God. One day, God told Jeremiah to go to a potter's shop. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us,

For teaching and for helping us,

For always watching over us,

We love you too.

Amen!