

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



### DO WE HAVE TO LISTEN TO HIM? COMPLAINTS ABOUT JEREMIAH

#### Jeremiah 18:1-6,18 The potter and the clay

Just like Jonah, Jeremiah had an important message to share with God's people. Unlike Jonah, Jeremiah listened carefully to God's word and shared it with the people. But the people did not want to listen, and our story today finds them complaining about Jeremiah's message.

Each child will need:

- a block of air-dry clay (you can buy larger amounts for less at online educational sites)
- plastics knives and forks to use with the clay
- an apron or an old T-shirt

You will need:

- resources to create a space for quiet reflection, eg cushions ... (optional)

## Start It

Today's activity is slightly different as the aim is to get the children to fire up their imaginations ready for their activity in the Action It section. Watch the clip together and discuss which ideas they like the most and which they think are the most creative. The clip is nine minutes long but can be cut short if required.

### Video

*30 artists taking pottery to the next level* by Insider (9 mins 8 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2APU5ob9Og](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2APU5ob9Og)

- **Say:** In our session today we will be thinking about clay and the way it can be shaped and remoulded. Try and keep in your mind all the wonderful creations you have seen when we come to our Bible story later in the session.

## Sing It

- **Say:** By now you should be well on your way to remembering our memory verse for this month.

**Ask:** Is anyone feeling brave enough to have a go at sharing it?

- **Say:** Let's sing the song we used in our first session together and this should help us to remember Romans 12:2. (Please remember that the song adapts the first line to 'Don't live [any longer] the way this world lives.'

'Romans 12:2' (memory verse song) by Hillsong Kids (2 mins)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuKnEomG\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuKnEomG_w)

# Tell It

🗨️ **Say:** Before we read our Scripture for today, we need to watch a very important clip to help us understand it. You have already seen lots of clay creations today, but this clip shows us how a pot is actually made.

## Video

'How to make a pottery bowl in under 3 minutes!' by *The Great Pottery Throw Down* (2 mins 17 secs)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pUN9bLmHMc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pUN9bLmHMc)

### Ask:

- ➔ Have any of you made a pot on a potter's wheel before?
- ➔ Was it difficult?
- ➔ If you have not tried it, do you think you would be able to make a pot like the man in the clip?
- ➔ If not, why not?

🗨️ **Say:** Our Bible story today is set in the Old Testament and our main character is Jeremiah the prophet.

🗨️ **Say:** Prophets had a special job that they did for God.

**Ask:** What was this special job? (If you're struggling to remember, then think back to the story of Jonah, who wasn't very good at his job!)

🗨️ **Say:** A prophet's job was to tell people what God wanted them to hear. They would share important messages from God about the way the people were living their lives.

### Read:

**'This is the word the Lord spoke to Jeremiah: "Go down to the potter's house. I will give you my message there." So I went down to the potter's house. I saw him working at the potter's wheel. He was making a pot from clay. But something went wrong with it. So the potter used that clay to make another pot. He used his hands to shape the pot the way that he wanted it to be.**

**'Then the Lord spoke his word to me: "Family of Israel, can't I do the same thing with you?" says the Lord. "You are like the clay in the potter's hands."**

— (Jeremiah 18:1-6 *ICB*)

### Ask:

- ➔ What do you think God meant when he described the people as clay in his hands?
- ➔ How do you know that the people had not been doing what God asked of them?

🗨️ **Say:** Jeremiah's message from God made it clear to the people that they needed to be reshaped and remoulded. They were not listening to what God had to say and it was time for God to make some changes.

### Ask:

- ➔ In what ways do you think God wanted to reshape the people of Israel?
- ➔ In what ways do you think God wants to reshape us?
- ➔ Do you think the people listened to Jeremiah's message from God?
- ➔ How do you think they reacted?

🗨️ **Say:** In Jeremiah 18:18 we find out how the people of Israel responded to God's warning about their poor behaviour.

### Read:

**'Then the people said, "Come, let's make plans against Jeremiah. Surely the teaching of the law by the priest will not be lost. And the advice from the wise men will still be with us. We will still have the words of the prophets. So let's ruin him by telling lies about him! We won't pay attention to anything he says."**

— (Jeremiah 18:18 *ICB*)

**Ask:** As you think about the people's response to God's message, what kind of behaviour do you think needed to be changed in the people of Israel?

🗨️ **Say:** The people did not want to listen to Jeremiah and they spread lies about him. Just like Jonah in our last session, they were willing to do whatever it took to avoid doing what God wanted them to do.

🗨️ **Say:** Sadly, the people of Israel continued to ignore God and the city of Jerusalem was taken over by King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians. We will learn more about what happened next in our next two sessions.

🗨️ **Say:** As followers of God we need to be willing to listen when God wants to reshape and remould us, just like clay on a potter's wheel.

## Action It

🗨️ **Say:** In our story today, the people of Israel were compared to clay in the potter's hand.

**Ask:** Who do you think is the potter in the story?

🗨️ **Say:** You are going to get the chance to make your own creation today using clay. As you create, think of all the ways God shapes us and moulds us to be more like him.

### Clay creations

For this activity you will need air-dry clay for the group. The aim of the activity is for the children to experience creating their own masterpiece with clay.

Give the children the opportunity to experience creating something from their own imagination. They can remould, restart and experience what Jeremiah meant when he said that the people of Israel were like clay in God's hands.

**Ask:** In what ways are we like clay being moulded and shaped by God's hands?

## Pray It

🗨️ **Say:** Today's session has been very busy with lots of activity. Now that we have all tidied up, we are going to spend some time thinking about everything we have discovered about God today.

Create a time of reflection for the children to rest on God. Depending on your space and facilities, they can lay quietly on the floor or sit with their eyes closed. Use the video below to play the song 'The potter's hand'. If the children become restless then you may want to fade out the music before it ends. Once the music has finished, bring the session to a close with prayer.

### Video

'The potter's hand' by Hillsong Worship (4 mins 16 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MQOhTbeCGA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MQOhTbeCGA)

## Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It Ideas for children and families.

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

OCTOBER  
SESSION 03

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## FOR ME

## TOGETHER



### Create

Take home your clay creation, and once it has dried out completely you can continue creating and paint it!



### Watch

*The Great Pottery Throw Down* is a British TV series. Select an episode and watch with someone at home. As you watch the potters making their creations, think about everything we have learnt in today's Explore It! and share what you have discovered about God.



### Song for the week

'Romans 12:2' (memory verse song) by Hillsong Kids (2 mins)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuKnEeomG\\_w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuKnEeomG_w)



### Memory verse

**'Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.'**

— (Romans 12:2 *NIRV*)

### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

*Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

