
Session: Potter's Wheel

Description

Years ago, I was going through a difficult period in my life. We were blessed in so many ways. Craig was working and I was staying home with the kids which I loved. We were all healthy and all of our basic needs were met. We had family who loved us and were abundantly blessed with friends. But somehow, in the midst of such abundance, I felt spiritually empty. Busy with two little ones, teaching Sunday School, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and helping manage our rental properties my life felt chaotic and I stopped hearing from God. It felt like months of silence, my own thoughts and worries rattling around in my head as I looked to the heavens each day for some kind of guidance, comfort or word. One night after the kids had been bathed, read to, and were fast asleep I found myself on my knees, tears streaming down my face as I looked up to the heavens searching for a word from God. Finally, probably out of exhaustion, I sat back on my heels and stopped. Stopped thinking, stopped striving, stopped frantically searching. I'll never forget what happened next. Clear as a bell, deep in my heart I heard, "Child. Don't you know that I am literally inside of you? I've been here the whole time. Be still". That day was a wake-up call for me. The treasure had been there all along. I started thinking about what it means to be present, God's presence in me and my presence in the gift of each moment.

We sometimes forget that we are receptacles. Dallas Willard reminds us that the human heart is the only place where the Kingdom of God is allowed to be absent. We've been given a choice.

If we can be still enough to let him, God can mold us back into something beautiful again. Clay in the potter's hands.

In this session, your family will watch a video on potters and potter's wheels and then, as a family, make a clay Prayer Pot yourselves if you choose to.

Materials Needed

Clay to make a family Prayer Pot, paper and a pen.

Handouts

None

Potter's Wheel

Read aloud the quote or scripture

"God told Jeremiah, "Up on your feet! Go to the potter's house. When you get there, I'll tell you what I have to say." So I went to the potter's house, and sure enough, the potter was there, working away at his wheel. Whenever the pot the potter was working on turned out badly, as sometimes happens when you are working with clay, the potter would simply start over and use the same clay to make another pot. Then God's Message came to me: "Can't I do just as this potter does, people of Israel?" God's Decree! "Watch this potter. In the same way that this potter works his clay, I work on you, people of Israel."

- Jeremiah 18:1-6 The MSG

Questions for discussion (10 minutes)

1. Do you think God molds or shapes us in some way? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever gone through a season where you felt God was far away? Share about that.
3. Do you think people can lose their faith? Explain. What do you think happens to God, or the spirit of God in us if we lose our faith?
4. Do you think God is involved in our daily lives, including the ordinary things? Explain.
5. What are some ways that you could be better at letting God mold you?

Rule of life activity

Potter's Wheel

1. Watch this video as a family.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHOoD8ddObI>
 2. Discuss some of the things that stood out to you in the video.
 3. What were some of the similarities between what the potter did with the clay and what God does with us? Were there differences?
 4. If you want to make a Family Prayer Pot get out your clay. (Or you could go to a clay center and use a real potter's wheel.)
 5. A Family Prayer Pot is a pot that sits somewhere where everyone in the family can see it. Throughout the week any family member can write a prayer down, fold it and put it in the pot. Other family members can take a prayer from the pot and pray for it.
 6. As a family decide what kind of pot you want to make. You can either make one larger pot for the whole family or each person can make their own.
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Practice

MINDFULNESS



7. Create your Family Prayer Pot! You will need to let it dry to get hard and you can even take it to a pottery place to be fired if you choose.
8. Throughout the week, as you feel led write prayers down and put them in the pot.
9. Then, either individually, or as a family, make a commitment to take prayers from the pot throughout the week and pray for them.

Examen

How did it go? Debrief highs and lows

1. Each person shares their favorite part of the conversation / activity and why.
2. Each person shares their least favorite part and why
3. Did you do a Serving/Giving activity last week? How did it go?

Serving /giving ideas for any time this week: Choose one or create your own. These can be done individually or as a group. You will be sharing your serving experience in the next session.

- Buy someone a cup of coffee or a soda.
- Offer to take an elderly neighbor grocery shopping or pick groceries up for them.
- Park far away so that someone else can have the close-in parking spot.
- Take someone on a picnic as a surprise.
- Buy a package of ice cream treats and deliver them to a family with kids.