

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 13/02/2022

Text(s): Jeremiah 18:1–6

Sermon Title: Potter And Clay

Preacher: Rev Dr Jonathan Seet

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

Jeremiah 18:1–16 (NLT)

1 The LORD gave another message to Jeremiah. He said,

2 “Go down to the potter’s shop, and I will speak to you there.”

3 So I did as he told me and found the potter working at his wheel.

4 But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over.

5 Then the LORD gave me this message:

6 “O Israel, can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand.

7 If I announce that a certain nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed,
8 but then that nation renounces its evil ways, I will not destroy it as I had planned.

9 And if I announce that I will plant and build up a certain nation or kingdom,

10 but then that nation turns to evil and refuses to obey me, I will not bless it as I said I would.

11 “Therefore, Jeremiah, go and warn all Judah and Jerusalem. Say to them, ‘This is what the LORD says: I am planning disaster for you instead of good. So turn from your evil ways, each of you, and do what is right.’ ”

12 But the people replied, “Don’t waste your breath. We will continue to live as we want to, stubbornly following our own evil desires.”

13 So this is what the LORD says: “Has anyone ever heard of such a thing, even among the pagan nations? My virgin daughter Israel has done something terrible!

14 Does the snow ever disappear from the mountaintops of Lebanon? Do the cold streams flowing from those distant mountains ever run dry?

15 But my people are not so reliable, for they have deserted me; they burn incense to worthless idols. They have stumbled off the ancient highways and walk in muddy paths.

16 Therefore, their land will become desolate, a monument to their stupidity. All who pass by will be astonished and will shake their heads in amazement.

Isaiah 64:8 (NLT)

8 And yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand.

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

1. **This week's sermon is about being surrendered to God. To refresh our memory, the first steps of pottery are choosing the clay and kneading it. How would you relate to these actions of choosing and kneading? How have you experienced these yourself in your spiritual walk with God?**
2. **After kneading the clay, the potter needs to wedge it, followed by more kneading. This is a tough process, physically and spiritually. The clay is cut into two and pressed back together in order to get rid of air pockets. How have you experienced the cutting and pressing processes in your spiritual journey?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

1. **Take a look at the slides from the sermon again. There are a total of 9 steps to make a pot. How do you feel about the other steps we have not discussed? What other points caused you to reflect further as you listened to the sermon?**
2. **The preacher said the goal of the process that the potter takes to form the pot is the formation of our character. God needs to form our character. How have you experienced change in your character over the years? Can this focus on character formation help you go through the different processes better in the future?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for monthly guide)

- Pray for one another to persevere through the steps or seasons of character formation. Ask for God's grace to help us walk through these processes in order to be all that God intends for us.
- Pray for our church to be a people who will be fit for the Master's use, well-formed and conditioned, and bearing godly character and attitude.
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and to stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.