



Clay

“Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”

Isaiah 64:8 (NIV)

Look up and talk about the following verses that mention clay. What do they teach us about ourselves and God?

- Jeremiah 18:1–6
- Isaiah 45:9
- Romans 9:20–21
- Job 10:8–9
- Lamentations 4:2
- 2 Corinthians 4:6–7



HAVE YOU MADE SOMETHING FROM CLAY?

You may enjoy molding creatures out of Play-Doh, or have taken a pottery class. Perhaps you have mixed ingredients from your kitchen pantry to make homemade playdough.

One day, when my family was exploring the beach along Lake Superior, we discovered real clay. Real clay is a neat material God designed. It is similar to dirt, but distinct. Clay is made from very fine, or tiny, pieces of rock that have been broken down by natural forces such as water and wind. The pieces of clay are smaller than sand grains, so when it is wet, they stick to each other even better than sand. The tiny pieces are packed together so tightly that water cannot go through them. This is why clay is great for making things like mugs and bowls, because water won't leak through. That day on the beach, my kids enjoyed making clay bowls and left them in the sun to dry, so someone else could find them. Our kids have also enjoyed taking pottery classes, where they learned how to fire their bowls in a kiln to turn them solid. They use those bowls every day at home. Clay is fun to play with and very useful!

Potters are people who work with clay and make beautiful and useful things from it. They have to be careful to treat clay the right way. They have to make sure the clay stays wet enough, but not too wet, when molding it. They also have to make sure there are no air bubbles in the clay, which could cause their creation to explode in the kiln. The Bible says we are like clay, and God is the potter. How do you think God shapes and molds us? As we read his word, he shapes the ways we think and behave. He molds our hearts to look like Jesus's heart. He is the very best potter, never skipping a step or rushing the work. Even when it's hard to be shaped, we can trust him. He makes beautiful work!