

Life Group Discussion Guide: The Prerogative of God

Scripture Focus: Jeremiah 18:1–17

Core Theme: God's sovereign authority to shape, dismantle, and rebuild according to His will and our response.

Ice Breakers: Getting Started

- Have you ever tried your hand at pottery or another craft? What was the hardest part?
 - What is one thing in your home that you have kept for a long time even though it is "marred" or broken?
 - If you could have any "do-over" in a hobby or project from this past month, what would it be?
 - When you think of a "Potter," do you think of someone who is gentle or someone who is firm?
 - **In:** What is something that the group doesn't know about you yet?
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UP: Knowing Jesus Intimately

Focus: Our vertical relationship with God and growing in it together.

1. In the potter's hand, the vessel was "marred," so he reworked it into another vessel as it seemed good to him (v. 4). Where have you seen this level of working from God in your own life?
 2. God asks, "Can I not do with you as this potter has done?" (v. 6). How does acknowledging God's absolute prerogative change the way you pray?
 3. Life Groups are not just Bible studies, but we study to know Jesus as revealed in Scripture. How does Jesus, as the "Great Potter," offer us hope when we feel "marred" by sin?
 4. What is something you're pretty sure God has asked you to do regarding surrendering your plans to His, yet it still needs to be done?
 5. What's a small step you can take towards obedience and "softening the clay" of your heart this week?
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IN: Being Known Authentically

Focus: Intentional friendships and "doing life" together as communal beings.

1. God speaks of a nation "turning from its evil" (v. 8). How can we as a group help one another stay soft and responsive to God's shaping?
2. What is a "marred" or difficult part of your story that you are currently celebrating because of how God reworked it?

3. What is something that is currently heavy on your heart regarding a situation you feel you have no control over?
 4. God designed us for friendship so we don't have to be shaped in isolation. How can we better support one another when God's "shaping" feels painful?
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OUT: Making Jesus Known Practically

Focus: Making the "rubber hit the road" by being a blessing to neighbors and friends.

1. Who is one person you would love to share the hope of God's "do-over" with?
2. How can we look out to neighbors who feel like their lives are too "broken" to be fixed?
3. How might you get to know the needs and prayer requests of your neighbors who are currently resisting God's "shaping" in their lives?
4. We are called to "make disciples of all nations". Who is someone the Lord brings to mind when you think about sharing the message of God's restorative justice?