



# Sermon Notes

**Sermon** In the Potter's Hand

**Scripture** Jeremiah 18:1-6 NRSVue

**Preaching** Pastor John Tittle

**Date** July 12, 2026

## Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to you that God reshapes us rather than discarding us and starting over with someone new?
2. Why do you think God often prepares us through unglamorous, repetitive, and difficult periods to shape and fashion us?
3. Question: if the clay becomes misshapen in the potter's hand, is that God's fault or the fault of the clay? How do you personally hold together God's sovereignty and human responsibility without collapsing into either extreme?
4. Walter Brueggemann's phrase "responsive sovereignty" is used to describe God — not total control, and not total permissiveness, but something in between. Does this framework feel freeing, unsettling, or both? Why?
5. The sermon lists ways we exercise our "God-given agency": to repent or resist, to turn toward or away, to remember or forget, to soften or harden our hearts. Which of these pairs feels most relevant to where you are right now?
6. Jeremiah is told to "get up and go down" to the potter's house to hear God's word. What would it look like for you to deliberately put yourself in a place where you're likely to hear from God this week?
7. The sermon says, "Let's not allow ourselves to become brittle, powdery, chalky, porous, or rock-hard." What tends to harden you spiritually — and what practices help keep you "spiritually hydrated" and responsive to God?
8. In verse 6, God says, "Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel." This word was originally spoken to a nation, not just individuals. How might this passage apply to us corporately — as a church, a community, or a country — and not only personally?
9. Paradox is in plenty in this passage: where do you see it? What other paradoxes do you see in our faith?
10. Jeremiah 18 shows a God Who is willing to rework, not discard. Where in your life right now do you most need to trust that God isn't finished — that being "spoiled" isn't the end of the story?

## Notes