

SESSION 7 | *February 18, 2025*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

# *On the Potter's Wheel*



*with* PATTY STUMP

The following pages contain information provided  
by our speaker for your study and enrichment.

BILLY  
GRAHAM  
Training Center *at* The Cove  
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA



# On the Potter's Wheel

## WEEK 7: *Safe in God's Grip of Grace* Session Guide

*"We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."* – Isaiah 64:8, NIV

Yatsar, our Potter, is: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

### **God is completely sovereign, preeminent in power and authority.**

He is Omnipotent: \_\_\_\_\_

He is Omniscient: \_\_\_\_\_

He is Omnipresent: \_\_\_\_\_

*"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God."* – Psalm 90:2, NIV

### **God is undeniably loving!**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever  
believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* – John 3:16, NIV

*"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall  
be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."* – Isaiah 1:18, NIV

### **God is righteous in all of His ways!**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*"I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness; I will sing  
the praises of the name of the LORD Most High."* – Psalm 7:17, NIV

## Chosen Vessel

The Master was searching for a vessel to use,  
Before Him were many, Which one would He chose?  
"Take me," cried the gold one, "I'm shiny and bright.  
I'm of great value and I do things just right.  
My beauty and luster will outshine the rest,  
And for someone like you, Master,  
Gold would be best."

The Master passed on with no word at all,  
And looked at a silver urn narrow and tall.  
"I'll serve you dear Master, I'll pour out your wine,  
I'll be on your table whenever you dine.  
My lines are so graceful, my carvings so true,  
And silver will always compliment you."

Unheeding, the Master passed on to the brass.  
Wide-mouthed and shallow and polished like glass.  
"Here! Here!" cried the vessel, "I know I will do.  
Place me on your table for all men to view."  
"Look at me," called the goblet of crystal so clear,  
"My transparency shows my contents so dear.  
Though fragile, am I, I will serve you with pride,  
And I'm sure I'll be happy in your house to abide."

The Master came next to a vessel of wood,  
Polished and carved, it solidly stood.  
"You may use me, dear Master," the wooden bowl said,  
"But I'd rather you used me for fruit, not for bread."  
Then the master looked down and saw a vessel of clay,  
Empty and broken it helplessly lay.  
No hope had the vessel that the Master might choose,  
To cleanse and make whole, to fill and to use.

"Ah! This is the vessel I've been hoping to find!  
I'll mend it and use it and make it all mine.  
I need not the vessel with pride of itself,  
Nor one that is narrow to sit on the shelf,  
Nor one that is big-mouthed and shallow and loud,  
Nor the one that thinks he can do all things just right.  
But this plain, earthly vessel, filled with power and might."

Then gently He lifted the vessel of clay,  
Mended and cleansed it, and filled it that day;  
Spoke to it kindly, 'There's work you must do,  
Just pour out to others as I pour into you.'

(Author Unknown)

# On the Potter's Wheel

## Key Verses

(All Scripture taken from the New International Version)

**Isaiah 64:8** “Yet you, Lord, are our Father. **We are the clay, you are the potter**; we are all the work of your hand.”

**Genesis 2:7** “Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”

**Psalms 139:16** “Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

**2 Corinthians 4:6-9** “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this **treasure in jars of clay** to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”

**Jeremiah 1:5** “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.”

**Jeremiah 18:1-4** “This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ‘Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.’ So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the **clay was marred** in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, **shaping it as seemed best to him.**”

**Isaiah 29:16** “You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! **Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it**, ‘You did not make me’? Can the pot say to the potter, ‘You know nothing?’”

**Isaiah 43:1** “But now, this is what the LORD says— **he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel**: ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.’”

**Isaiah 43:7** “Everyone who is called by my name, whom **I created for my glory**, whom I formed and made.”

**Isaiah 45:9** “Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker, those who are nothing but potsherds among the potsherds on the ground. **Does the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you making?’** Does your work say, ‘The potter has no hands’?”

**Isaiah 45:12** “**It is I who** made the earth and created **mankind** on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts.”

**Psalms 8:4-6** “What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet.”

**Romans 9:21** “Does not the **potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes** and some for common use?”

**2 Corinthians 12:8-10** “Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**”

**1 Peter 1:3-7** “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though **refined by fire**—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

**Ephesians 2:10** “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

**Philippians 1:6** “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

**Hebrews 2:6** “But there is a place where someone has testified: ‘What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him?’”

# On the Potter's Wheel

## WEEK 7: *Safe in God's Grip of Grace* Growth Opportunity

*"We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."* – Isaiah 64:8, NIV

We've had seven weeks together! I'm delighted you have invested your time in this study. Remember from **Isaiah 55:10-11** (NIV): *"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."*

I hope you will take this Truth to heart: God desires to speak to you, to shape you, to strengthen you, to refine you, and to use you for His Kingdom and eternal purposes. I hope that through this study you will have gleaned Biblical insights that settle in your heart and strengthen your spiritual journey, daily life, and relationship with the Lord. Before you begin this week's Growth Opportunity, I encourage you to pray, pause, and prioritize inviting God to speak to your heart. He indeed loves you so very much!

### **Day 1 (From Session 1): *In the Potter's Hands – Surrendered***

*"We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."* – Isaiah 64:8, NIV

What happens after clay is extracted from the ground? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the first thing the potter does before placing the clay on the potter's wheel? \_\_\_\_\_

In your walk with the Lord, can you identify 'sticks and stones' or 'debris' God has removed from your life?

\_\_\_\_\_

Do take time to thank *Yatsar*, your Potter, for His tender, tenacious attention to your spiritual well-being.

What does Genesis 2:7 state? \_\_\_\_\_

How about Isaiah 43:7? \_\_\_\_\_

You have been formed and fashioned for what reason? \_\_\_\_\_

Remember from week 1: Ruth, Naomi, and Orpah. Each came to a fork in the road and had to choose what they would 'return to' or prioritize. The physical famine in the land was a reflection of God's children's spiritual condition. May it not be that we have a deaf ear to hearing God. As Amos 8:11 calls it, *"a famine of hearing the words of the Lord."*

As you consider your relationship with God, is there anything that is hindering you from being fully surrendered to *Yatsar*, your Potter? If so, it is essential that you make an intentional choice, hopefully in which you'll draw near to Him as you tend to whatever is seeking to hinder you from being fully surrendered.

---

---

---

---

Ruth's story was a seemingly 'small' story; yet we see through her faithfulness to God that she is part of the lineage of Jesus' birth. Our seemingly small stories and steps of faith are part of the bigger story God is telling. Remember from session 1: Have a fixed focus on Him (Hebrews 12:1-2), trust Him with all your heart (Proverbs 3:5-6), and surrender to Him daily (Galatians 2:20). End today by revisiting Ephesians 2:10 –

“For [I] am \_\_\_\_\_!”

Conclude your time in prayerful pause with *Yatsar*, the One who is faithfully forming and fashioning you.

Personal reflections: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

## Day 2 (From Session 2): *Shaped by the Potter*

*“This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ‘Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.’ So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.” – Jeremiah 18:1-4, NIV*

**Yatsar** means: to form, fashion, create, or shape something with intention and purpose; the Potter. What do you recall from this session regarding God having in His hands a pot that was **marred** (Hebrew – *Shachath*):

---

As we looked at Genesis 3 and the account of “the Fall,” we saw that since the Fall, each of us are marred by sin. We are also vulnerable to ‘faulty thinking’ and a ‘fractured faith.’ What do you recall about the Fall’s impact on our relationship with God?

---

We are inclined to doubt God—one of Satan’s strategies to have individuals keep God at a distance. Have you experienced his scheme from the pit: to distance us from and cause us to doubt God, in your relationship with God? \_\_\_\_\_



---

If so, be intentional to seal up any cracks with Truth. Remember John 8:32, “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

---

In John 4, we were invited to see Jesus and his interactions with the woman at the well. How did Jesus respond to all that He knew about this woman—with condemnation or grace? \_\_\_\_\_

We know that as the Potter shapes us, He desires to remove debris: anything that compromises us as His vessels. Once again, a fork in the road occurred as this woman was confronted with her lifestyle choices and Jesus’ way. As she stepped towards Him, He filled her emptiness. We all have times when we feel empty. Does this reality resonate within you at this time in your journey? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Jesus desires to fill our lives with Himself; not artificial, temporary fillers. What does John 10:10 state? \_\_\_\_\_

---

We are all marred; but in His hands, we’re marvelous. Close your time today reading and reflecting upon Psalm 139 and note any personal reflections before you conclude today in a prayer of praise, as well as a prayer for *Yatsar* to heal and fill those empty spaces that are in need of His tender grip of grace.

---

---

---

---

---

---

### **Day 3 (From Session 3): *Slippage in Our Earthenware***

*“Like a coating of silver dross on earthenware are fervent lips with an evil heart.” – Proverbs 26:23, NIV*

Slippage is any movement away from an original, or secure, place. We gleaned in this session how Adam and Eve experienced slippage in their relationship with God, and how we can as well. **Proverbs 4:23** pertains to each of us: \_\_\_\_\_

During session 3 we explored various kinds of spiritual slippage that can occur in our earthenware due to our sin nature (Romans 3:23, Romans 5:8). Some of these were: my will vs. Thy will; blame shifting; justification of our actions/defensiveness; fear of man; lip service; flattery/praise of mankind; love of money; and masquerading as a servant of righteousness. We all experience slippage. Which of these resonated the most with you? \_\_\_\_\_

What does Ephesians 4:27 state? \_\_\_\_\_

Assuming God has opened your spiritual eyes to this area of slippage, have you considered steps you desire to take to eliminate these inroads into your vessel? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Take some time to review the verses we identified as part of the remedy for slippage, but begin with 1 John 1:9

\_\_\_\_\_

Others were: Matthew 6:33 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 37:31 \_\_\_\_\_

and Psalm 119:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Consider implementing an action step in response to each of these four passages. Consider talking with someone, and praying it through, if you are stirred by the Holy Spirit to take such a step. It can indeed strengthen us when we have someone come along side of us. Close today with Isaiah 1:18!

\_\_\_\_\_ Amen!

#### **Day 4 (From Session 4): Strengthened by the Refiner's Fire**

*"Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'You did not make me'?  
Can the pot say to the potter, 'You know nothing'?" – Isaiah 29:16, NIV*

In session 4 we looked at the life of one of God's servants who is described in James 5:17:

\_\_\_\_\_

We saw in 1 Kings 17-18 how Elijah's journey with God was characterized by two things:

\_\_\_\_\_ and then Elijah \_\_\_\_\_

As we wait on the Lord and listen to what He imparts to our hearts, He then promises us in Psalm 32:8 the following: \_\_\_\_\_

We must choose if we will obey, or not. What happened when Elijah took his eyes off of God and instead focused on circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Did this reality resonate within you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We saw in week 4’s lesson that fear, fatigue, spiritual weariness, mountaintop moments, busyness, mental and emotional exhaustion can impact us spiritually. Which of these impacts you most regularly?

---

Is there anything else that you have identified that tends to take its toll on your relationship with God?

---

What have you gleaned is a wise course of action when you are vulnerable due to one (or more) of these impacting elements? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

In session 4, we explored “refining fires.” What have you learned about God’s appointment of refining fires?

---

---

Reread James 1:2-6. What is God’s desired outcome from trials and the testing of our faith?

---

---

---

What was the “D” in the acrostic “Refined” that I forgot to mention in the video session? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, “Delight.” We’re to consider trials in what light? \_\_\_\_\_

---

On that note, read Philippians 4:13 and conclude your time in prayer, especially reflecting with God on waiting, hearing, obeying, and the attitude of your heart in the reality of trials. As well, thank Him for how He promises to see us through each refining fire He permits to touch us as His vessels!

## Day 5 (From Session 5): Set Apart

*“Does not **the potter** have **the right** to make out of **the same lump of clay** some **pottery** for special purposes and some for common use?” – Romans 9:21, NIV*

In week 5 we looked at one of God’s servants, Mary. We saw that as the birth of Jesus was proclaimed to Mary, the reality of it had been foretold throughout the pages of Scripture, ie. Genesis 3:15; Micah 5:2; and Isaiah 7:14, to mention a few. As this thread is woven throughout Scripture, it stands out that God is faithful to His Word. He will bring to pass everything He has promised! Everything! Each of us are vessels that are “set apart”—set apart *from* the world and *for* God. Glance back at week 5 and note the three things that accompany the reality of being set apart for God:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

God reserves the right to “interrupt our lives.” As he interrupted Mary’s life, it was apparent that she knew God’s Word, trusted God’s Word, and chose to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word. Obedience is essential as God reveals His will for us. Is there an interruption that you are facing in your life? Something that has been unforeseen or possibly even undesired? \_\_\_\_\_

What is a step God would have you take in response to this interruption, based on what you have gleaned through His Word? \_\_\_\_\_

As He interrupts our lives, God desires for us to have a yielded will (versus self will) as well as a surrendered heart. Let’s end today with the declaration that Elizabeth made to Mary in Luke 1:45.

“Blessed” – Greek: *Makarios*. Inner qualities of a faith-filled servant that yield a spiritual well-being that is not based on circumstances.

Dear sister, as believers we are *blessed* because our sins are forgiven and can no longer be counted against us (Psalm 32:1-2) That’s GRACE!

Rewrite Philippians 2:16 \_\_\_\_\_!

Personal reflections: \_\_\_\_\_

**Surprise!** We have a sixth day this week for you to enjoy a **brief** reflection on

**Day 6 (From Session 6): *Empowered by the Potter***

*“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” 2 Corinthians 4:7, NIV*

God’s Word is both (1) Timeless and (2) True. You can count on Him to do what He says He can, and will, do. What is the greatest treasure we have within our earthen jars of clay?

Sit with this Truth for a few moments. God put His greatest treasure in the most common, and fragile vessel available: humanity. Do you remember from our session why Paul wrote 2 Corinthians 4:7 to the Corinthians?

---

He did not want them to lose heart; to wane in hope. Our hope comes from where?

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord **Jesus** Christ! **In** his great mercy he has given us new birth **into** a living **hope** through the resurrection of **Jesus** Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3, NIV*

Jesus is our LIVING hope! And His indwellings presence provides us with \_\_\_\_\_ we need to live a godly life through our knowing Him (2 Peter 1:3-4). How does this reality impact your thoughts as you consider how you will walk out each moment that comes in each day God appoints? (Jesus within us and the power of the Holy Spirit) \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

Whatever your greatest challenge currently is, with Jesus within you and the Holy Spirit empowering you, you can indeed walk it out in both faith and victory. Remember, don't forget to get dressed! Our spiritual attire is essential for victory!

**The Armor of God: Ephesians 6:10-17, NIV** – *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

Close your time today with the exhortation that is repeatedly noted in Ephesians 6:18-20. \_\_\_\_\_

Savor these moments with *Yatsar*, your faithful, loving, strong, tender Potter!

Reflections: \_\_\_\_\_

---