

*The Potter
and the
Clay*

The Purpose of the Class:

- To gain a general understanding of the clay process.
- To notice key differences in modern pottery to that of Biblical times.
- To use those differences and apply them in a spiritual way.
- To gain a deeper understanding of God as the Potter and us as the Clay.



The Clay Process - Collecting



The Clay Process - Sifting



The Clay Process - Reclaiming



The Clay Process - Wedging



The Clay Process – The Wheel



The Clay Process – The Wheel

- **Centering the Clay**



The Clay Process – The Wheel

○ Throwing the Clay

Figure 3.4 Throwing



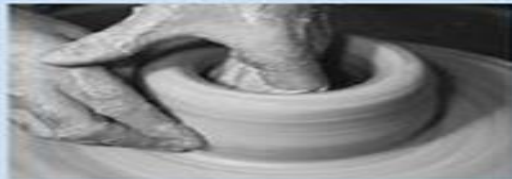
a. Basic throwing: After centering and wheel-wedging, form a dimple and apply water.



b. Penetrate the lump to create a V-shaped opening.



c. Widen the bottom using the "claw" motion, and compress the bottom.



d. Begin lifting the walls.



e. Maintain firm, even pressure and steady upwards movement.



f. Stop lifting just shy of the rim.



g. Compress the rim.



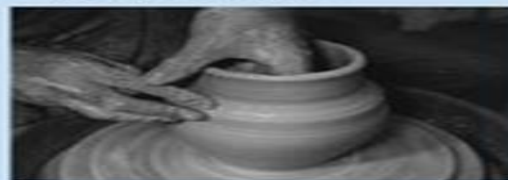
h. Begin second lift, pressing into the clay at the base.



i. Continue lifting slowly and steadily up to the rim.



j. Repeat with the third lift.



k. Begin shaping the vessel as you lift.



l. Think about the shape as you follow through.

The Clay Process – The Wheel

- **Removing the Clay**



The Clay Process – The Wheel

- **Trimming the Clay**



The Clay Process - Drying



The Clay Process - Firing



The Clay Process - Glazing



The Clay Process – Re-Fire



The Clay Process - Finished



Now What?

- ⦿ How does this artistic process help us to develop a stronger understanding of who we are in Christ?

- ⦿ How can this information help us to see an aspect of God when so little is mentioned about Him as a Potter?

Additional Information

- **Clay once fired is virtually indestructible** – clay pieces created in antiquity, even if broken, are still around today.

(John 10:28, John 6:40, John 17:3)

- **Pottery** – A term that refers to a vessel that is used. A potter will not create something for decorative purposes only. It must have a purpose

(Mark 16:15, Romans 8:28, Psalm 57:2, Proverbs 19:21)

Additional Information

- **Yatsar** – “The one who forms” is a masculine gender. Production was in the hands of men.
(Psalm 139:13, Exodus 15:17, Ephesians 6:10, Job 5:18)

- **Location** – The Pottery workshops during the biblical era were located outside of town, distanced from the general population; separated. However, the Potter would remain with the clay.
(Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5, John 17:15)

The Potter's Design - Collecting

- Collected by hand, by the potter. He was the only one allowed to determine the quality and purpose for the clay
- **Genesis 1:7** – Then the Lord formed the man of the dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
- **Dust** – Undefined natural clay (pure form)
- **Earthenware** – most common, all over, non-specific
- **Romans 1:16** – For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.



KEY POINT

We were
HANDPICKED
by God.

The Potter's Design - Sifting

- **Genesis 3:17b** – “cursed is the ground because of you”
- **Genesis 3:19b** – “till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return”
- The potter will sift through the clay until all impurities are gone, until it becomes pure dust once again.
- **Psalms 139:23** – Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!
- **Psalms 51:10** – Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.



KEY POINT

God gently works to
remove all of our
IMPURITIES

The Potter's Design - Reclaiming

- The potter will reclaim the clay by adding clean, pure water to the dust.
- **John 4:14** – “but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life”.
- **John 7:38** – “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”



KEY POINT

Our dry souls are
reclaimed by
LIVING WATER

The Potter's Design - Wedging

- The potter must wedge the clay to the point that the water penetrates every part of the dust.
- This process was done by the potter kneading the clay with his feet.
- **Isaiah 41:25** – I roused one from the north, and he obeyed; I called one from the east, summoned him in My name, he marches over viceroys as if they were mud, *like a potter treading his clay.*
- **Exodus 3:5** – The he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”

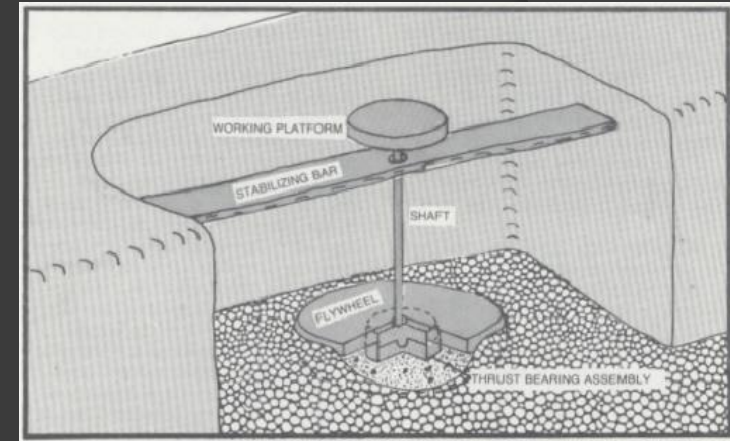


KEY POINT

God's HOLINESS
and POWER prepares
us for His purpose.

The Potter's Design – The Wheel

- The potter's wheel was made of stone. To operate, the potter had to spin the wheel with his feet, using the kick-wheel at the bottom.
- In order to form a piece, the potter would involve his entire body.
- **1 Kings 18:32** – and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.
- **Romans 12:1** – I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a *living sacrifice*, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.



KEY POINT

We must SACRIFICE
our desires,
in order to FULFILL
God's desires

The Potter's Design – The Wheel

◎ Centering the Clay (Balance, Security)

- **Job 11:18** – And you will feel secure, because there is hope; you will look around and take rest in security.
- **Psalms 40:2** – He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
- **Psalms 91**

◎ Throwing the Clay (Transformed, Molded)

- **Isaiah 64:8** – But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
- **Psalms 92:4** – For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

◎ Removing the Clay (Lifted up, Held)

- **Job 33:6** – Behold, I am toward God as you are; I too was *formed* from a piece of clay. *Qoras* = to nip or to pinch

◎ Trimming the Clay (Renewal, Cleansing)

- **Isaiah 40:31** – But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

KEY POINT

God transforms us
through **PRESSURE,**
PATIENCE, and
GENTLENESS

The Potter's Design – Drying

- The potter will hide vessels in caves and huts to prevent them from being harmed or destroyed.
- The drying phase is when clay is the most fragile and easily broken.
- **Psalm 59:1** – deliver me from my enemies, O my God; protect me from those who rise up against me;
- **Psalm 91:14** – “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.

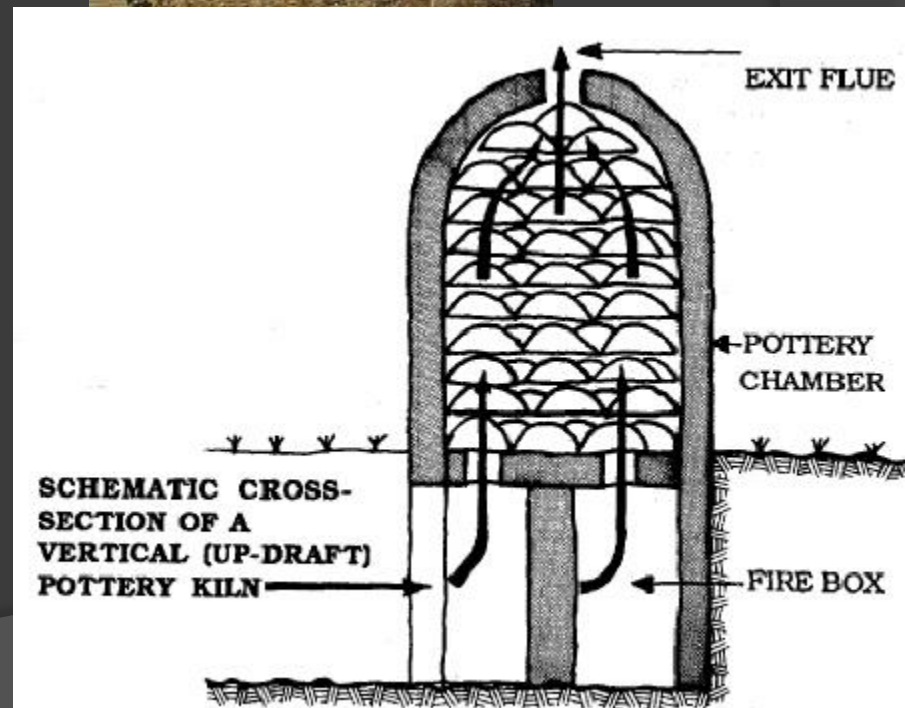


KEY POINT

God PROTECTS us
from evil, especially
when we are
vulnerable

The Potter's Design – Firing

- The potter will heat the vessels by applying the heat slowly and gradually.
- Once the vessel has been heated, it is virtually indestructible.
- **Isaiah 48:10** – Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.
- **Philippians 4:13** – I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



KEY POINT

The heat of
AFFLICTION makes
us STRONGER

The Potter's Design – Glazing

- The potter during biblical times usually would glaze before firing because of the time it took for the pieces to be heated.
- **Revelation 3:12** – The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.



KEY POINT

We are no longer
DUST, we are a
treasured VESSEL



HOMework

- You will be creating a vessel that symbolizes your walk with God. Either what your walk is or what you want it to be.
- It must have purpose, it cannot be a sculpture.
- It is personal and the only one who has to understand it is you.
- Please bring ideas with you next week.