

Clay Pinch Pots

Materials

- ☐ Modeling clay or air-dry play dough
- ☐ Beads, buttons, or sequins to press onto the clay as decoration
- ☐ Paper or foam plates for each student

Instructions

Give each student several ounces of clay, enough for a four or five inch ball. Have them roll the clay into a ball and place it on a paper or foam plate. Poke a finger into the middle of the ball partway down. Do not go all the way through the clay.

Next begin pinching: place thumb inside the hole and use the forefinger to pinch the outside edge of the clay. Turn the dough and pinch all the way around the clay ball, making the hole larger and larger until the ball resembles a bowl/pot and bottom and edges are about $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thick.

Have students pat and shape the edges and sides to finish forming their dish. Have them carefully add beads, buttons, or sequins for decorations if desired. Remind students to work carefully and press gently. If necessary, students may start over by rolling the clay into a ball and pinching it again.

Have students leave their finished dish on a paper plate to take home. Remind them to let it air dry for several days and not to use it for food or liquid.

Optional: Attach handles by rolling a small amount of clay into a “snake” then attach by spreading/smearing the clay of the handle edges into the clay of the pot.

For a pitcher style, pinch one side into a spout then add a handle on the opposite side.



Suggested Discussion

- ?** What did you enjoy about making an object from clay? *Allow discussion.*

When God sent Jeremiah to the potter's house, he wanted Jeremiah to see the potter working with his clay just as you worked with yours. Although you did not work with a potter's wheel, you formed your clay in much the same way that a potter does.

- ?** Some of you might not have liked the way your object was turning out. Maybe it got messed up as you worked with it. What did you do? *Started over; rolled it into a ball again and reshaped it.*

You had control over the clay/dough, didn't you? If you weren't pleased with your object, you could start over. If you felt like mashing it and reshaping it, you were able to do that.

God had control over his people, too, and he certainly wasn't pleased with them. Just as your object got messed up as you worked with it, the people of Judah had gotten ruined by sin. God gave them many chances to turn back to him so that he could forgive them and not have to destroy them.

But God wanted Jeremiah and the people to understand that, even though he loved them, he would not let his people continue sinning without punishment. Just as the potter mashed his vessel and reshaped it into something else—and just as some of you started over with your objects—God would destroy Judah, too.