



Discussion Guide
Race Against the Horses – Part 3
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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*“Whatever God is using to mold your character,
do not resist, but rest in His loving presence.”*
[Boyd Bailey]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

What is something you are celebrating in this season of life? **OR** What do you hope to be celebrating in the near future?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*“But me? I will see your face in righteousness; when I awake,
I will be filled full by seeing your image.”*
[Psalm 17:15]

BIG IDEA

God, the sovereign potter, has the authority to shape and reshape our lives, which flows from His loving-kindness!

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

[Jeremiah 18:1-12](#)

1. What is the significance of God sending Jeremiah to the potter’s house? What does the potter and clay imagery teach about God’s relationship with His people?
2. How does the potter’s ability to reshape a marred pot reflect God’s willingness to work with His people, despite their flaws? How does this encourage you today?
3. What does v. 7-10 reveal about God’s responsiveness to repentance and disobedience?
4. In v. 12, the people respond: *“We will continue to follow our plans.”* How does this contrast with God’s desire for them? When in your life recently have you had a similar response to God?
5. God has the right to shape us as He pleases. How can this both challenge and encourage us today?
6. Why do you at times resist God’s shaping? How can we help one another overcome this resistance?
7. The people of Judah trusted their own plans instead of God’s. How can you guard against a similar tendency in your personal and our collective faith journeys?

8. The clay must remain pliable in the potter's hands. What area(s) of your life might you need to surrender to become more moldable to God's will?
9. God's response to repentance demonstrates His mercy. How has repentance brought restoration in your life? How can you allow this to encourage others?
10. Judah displayed a stubborn refusal to submit to God. How can you cultivate a heart that is responsive to God's voice and willing to change?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

God, as the potter, has a RIGHT to do with us as His pleases; we are His, not our own. Based on what we've discussed today, what is a step of obedience you can take this week? Here are a few additional areas of our lives and questions to consider ...

- **PERMISSION** → Will you ask God to give you a heart willing to be molded by Him?
- **RELINQUISHMENT** → Will you surrender yourself fully to God, saying "Have your way?"
- **APPRENTICESHIP** → Will you live daily as a disciple to Jesus, a clay pot in the Potter's hand?

PRAYER FOCUS

Trusting the Sovereign Potter

- Let's reflect on this beautiful truth: God is the sovereign potter, shaping and reshaping our lives with perfect authority and infinite loving-kindness. Even when we don't understand His work, we can trust that His hands are gentle, His purposes are good, and His love never fails.
- As we pray, let's surrender ourselves to God's skillful shaping. Let's ask Him to mold us into vessels that reflect His glory and to give us hearts that trust His process, knowing that His plans are always for our ultimate good and His greater purpose.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Guide to Jeremiah](#) & [Ch. 18 Commentary](#)
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- [A Spiritual Lesson at the Potter's House](#) & [God's Love Letter to You](#)
 - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.