



A NEW CREATION

AUGUST 9, 2020

JEREMIAH a prophet
for the city

Jeremiah loved illustrations. As he passed by the potter's house, he recognized that God, like the potter, had shaped and could reshape His creation into something new. Join us for part four of **Jeremiah: A Prophet for the City** where we will celebrate the new creation God is making in men and women who have made a public profession of their faith in Jesus Christ through baptism.

PASSAGE (READ):

Jeremiah 18

PRINCIPLE (KNOW):

Baptism is the outward expression of an inward transformation.

PRACTICE (DO):

Have you made a public declaration of your commitment to Jesus? If not, what is keeping you from following Him in believer's baptism?

If you have followed Jesus in believer's baptism, are you continuing to walk with Jesus each and every moment of each and every day? How is God continuing to shape and mold you into the image of Jesus?

DAILY READINGS:

Day 1: Jeremiah 18

Day 2: Jeremiah 19

Day 3: 2 Corinthians 4

Day 4: 2 Corinthians 5

Day 5: Romans 6

Day 6: Acts 8

Day 7: Matthew 3

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

BOOKS:

Run with the Horses, by Eugene Peterson

Eat This Book, by Eugene Peterson

SERMONS (AVAILABLE AT [SSBC.ORG/SERMON-ARCHIVES/SERIES](https://www.ssbc.org/sermon-archives/series)):

Plunge: a sermon series about baptism (August 2011)

Watermark: a sermon series about baptism (August 2015)

Precepts for Life: Jeremiah, Part 1 and 2, by Kay Arthur

Worldview: Thinking and Living Biblically, by Greg Laurie and others

Intro to the Major Prophets, by J. B. Nicholson

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS



HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts related to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. Have you ever been baptized? If so, tell us about your baptism. At the time of your baptism, what did you think was happening? What did it mean to you?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

Jeremiah's sermon about the potter's wheel was directed toward the nation of Judah. God wanted them to know that He could and would re-create them for His purposes. The clay would have to be reformed. God, the Creator, is also the One who re-creates. Baptism is an ancient and outward symbol of that re-creation. This week we will look at baptism to gain an understanding of its meaning as a symbol of re-creation.

3. Baptism is a mark of **obedience** proclaiming an inward commitment of **faith** (Read Matthew 3:7-17).
 - Have you ever been through a "rite of passage"? If so, what was it and what did it represent? Did you find it personally meaningful?
 - Is a wedding ceremony necessary in order to be married? If not, why do we have them? How does this relate to baptism?
 - Why did John the Baptist resist baptizing Jesus? What was Jesus' response to John's objection?
 - How does Jesus' decision to be baptized affect what you think about baptism?
4. Baptism is a mark of **personal transformation** (Read Romans 6:1-8).
 - What kind of change do you think should take place in a person's life after they come to faith in Jesus Christ?
 - Why do you think Paul felt it was necessary to address the question of whether or not Christians should continue to sin so that grace may abound?
 - What word did Paul use to describe the act of someone coming to faith in Christ?
 - Do you think Paul is referring to a literal water baptism or a figurative experience of coming to faith?
5. Baptism is a mark and celebration of **belonging** to the **body of Christ** (read Acts 10:43-48).
 - What does Peter say is necessary for a person to receive forgiveness of sins? From where does this forgiveness come?
 - Why were the believers who accompanied Peter amazed? What does it mean that the gifts of the Holy Spirit were poured out "even on the Gentiles"?
 - Why do you think Peter asked the question, "Can anyone withhold water for baptism for these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"
 - Depending on your faith tradition, the practice of baptism can look very different. If you were raised in church, how did your church practice baptism? How did that practice align with what we've read about baptism today?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together - in Huddles]

6. Share your salvation and baptism experience. Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.

