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Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
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## Getting In To God Shape

Jeremiah 18:1-12

Series: Run with the Horses: Faithful Living in a Fearful World

### Central Passage

**Jeremiah 18:5–6 (ESV)** — 5 Then the word of the LORD came to me: 6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

**Central Thought:** God, in his sovereignty and love, and like a master craftsman, will bring pressure to bear in our lives to help us fully achieve the shape and purpose for which we were created by him.

- ❖ We are contingent beings – created by God, in his image for his purposes.

**Genesis 1:27–28 (ESV)** —27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

**Genesis 2:7 (ESV)** — 7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

- There is no such thing as a self-made man or woman.

**Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)** — 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- ❖ We can submit to or resist the "artistic" work of God in our lives.

**Jeremiah 18:12 (ESV)** — 12 "But they say, 'That is in vain! We will follow our own plans, and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.'

- ❖ If we resist, God will discipline us, but he won't discard us!

**Hebrews 12:5–6 (ESV)** — 5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." (See also all of Heb.12)

- ❖ If we submit and repent, God will forgive and restore us.

**Jeremiah 18:7–8 (ESV)** — 7 If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, 8 and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it

**1 John 1:5–10 (ESV)** — 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.