

Small Group Study Guide

ICE BREAK

- Talk about a time when your parents/someone in authority let you do something that was not good for you that resulted in a better relationship with them.

STUDY

This week we focus on God molding us to trust Him more by allowing us to suffer the consequences of our disobedience.

What did you hear in this week's sermon that was new about God's Tough Love?

1. Read Jeremiah 18:1-11

- a. What is your initial reaction to God saying "I am preparing a disaster for you..." ?
- b. How do you reconcile that with our trust that "God is Love and Loves us"?
- c. How are we, and our future, like clay to be molded?
- d. What part did Israel's behavior play in molding their own future?
- e. Explain: God used Babylon to cause Israel to seek Him again.
- f. How does lying affect our soul, relationships? What is the "price of the cover-up"?

2. Acts 17:26-27: God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him.

- a. What if one of God's main purposes is molding us not only via tough times but with trials?
- b. How common is it for you, during trials, to pray to "just get them over with"?
- c. Should we instead pray: God, don't let this trial pass until I have been molded to seek you more?

- i. How do you understand and react to: God goes against us because He's for us?
- ii. We often say: **God is in control**- In what ways is our future- in our own hands also?
- iii. Israel had prophets like Daniel to warn them from wandering from God, who is a prophet in your life?

REFLECT

- Reflect: What time in your life led you to a point of seeking the Lord with all of your heart?

PRAY

- Pray for each other for God's guidance during trials in life.
- Follow up on past prayer requests.
- Pray for the mission God has given each of us to live out daily.