



## SESSION 7: DEFINING LOVE

### 1—POTS BY GOD

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Read Isaiah 64:8 to find out how you are like mud.

James is *not* an artist. So, when his art teacher announced that his class would be making pottery, he was not looking forward to it. However, the class got to use a pottery wheel, which was crazy, messy and a ton of fun. The teacher asked them to make a large bowl during the week and turn it in on Friday.

James worked on his bowl, but no matter what he did it just turned into a lumpy mess. The day before the project was due, he got so frustrated that he just threw it in his cubby and went home. The next day he was dreading what the teacher would say. But to his surprise, when he went to get his lump of clay, he found that someone had shaped it into a beautiful bowl!

In Isaiah 64:8, God is called a “potter,” which is someone who shapes clay into beautiful and useful items. What are some ways He has “shaped” your life?

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Many times, we listen to the advice of others and try to do things to make them like us. How does this especially happen when we are attracted to someone of the opposite sex?

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Today, ask God whether you are allowing other people to mold you into *their idea* of who you should be. Ask Him to show you how to get out of *their hands* and back into *His hands*. Remember that you don’t have to change yourself to earn His love—He gives it to you for free!

## 2—FULLY DRESSED

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Want to leave the house fully dressed? Then read Colossians 3:12-14.

Mark the boxes below that are a part of your school-day morning routine:

- ☐ Take a shower
- ☐ Brush my teeth
- ☐ Pick out an outfit
- ☐ Apply tons of deodorant!
- ☐ Comb my hair
- ☐ Put on makeup
- ☐ Pick at my zits
- ☐ Pick my nose
- ☐ Pick on my younger brother or sister
- ☐ Look into a mirror several times before I leave
- ☐ Rummage through the dirty clothes to find some “almost clean” socks
- ☐ Pray and read my Bible

According to Colossians 3:12-14, what six things do we need to “put on” before we leave the house each day?

C \_\_\_\_\_

K \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

P \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

What item on the list will help you the most to have good and healthy relationships? Why do you think this is true?

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Take a few minutes to ask God to help you show compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and love to people this week.

### 3—THE SAME OLD MESSAGE?

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Find 1 John 3:11 to read an old but good message.

Have you ever had the same old thing said to you about a million times? Things like, “Clean your room!” “You need to eat those veggies so you’ll be big and strong!” “If you don’t turn in your homework, you won’t pass this class!”

While we may get tired of hearing the same thing over and over again, some things are worth repeating. The author of 1 John writes about a message the people have “heard from the beginning.”

What is that message?

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Maybe you, too, have heard this message a ton, but what does it mean in your life?

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Think of one person you care about. What is one thing you can do this week that will show you love him or her?

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Now go out and do it!

### 4—PLANTING SEEDS

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Feel like doing a little gardening? Then read Galatians 6:8-10.

Dave and his two little sisters decided to plant a small garden for their mom on Mother’s Day. So they went out together and bought seed and fertilizer and all the stuff they needed.

By late June, though, Dave knew something was wrong. Their sunflowers were turning out to be tomatoes.

“It’s a miracle!” said Dave’s little sisters.

“No, it’s a mistake,” Dave said. “We must have mixed up the seeds. After all, you only get what you plant in the first place.”

What Dave said about the seeds is also true of our relationships—you only get out of them what you put in. According to Galatians 6:8-10, what will you get if you act unloving toward people?

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What will you get if you act loving toward people and treat them with respect?

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What does this passage say we should never get weary or tired of doing?

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Right now, ask God to show you how to be a better friend by planting the right spiritual seeds into all of your relationships.