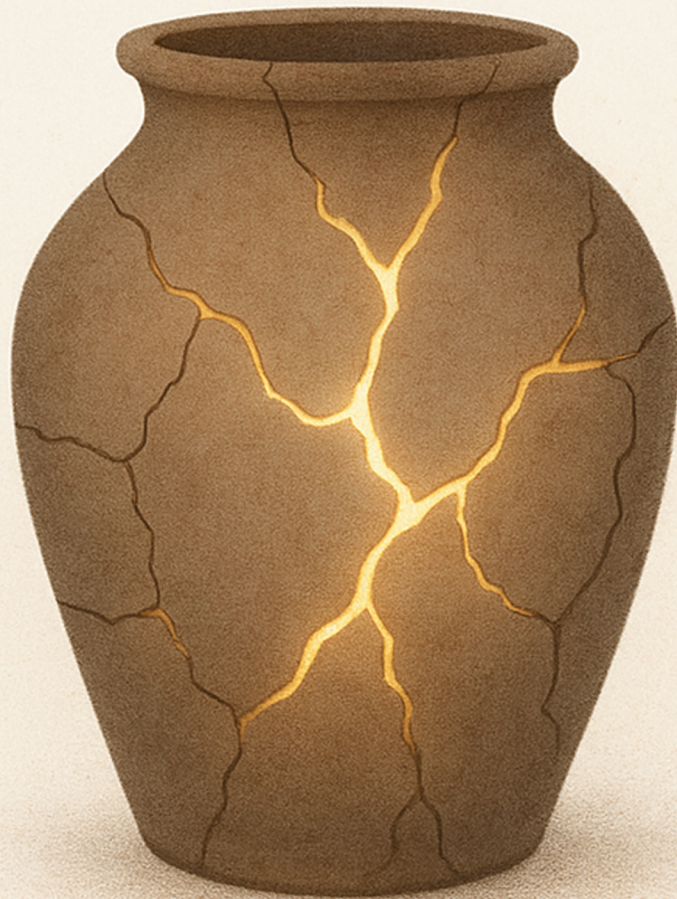


**made**  
**for more**



**Three Days of Prayer**

PRAYER STATIONS



# shaped for more

## Jeremiah 18:1, 3-6

*This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord : So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.*

*Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord . "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.*

## ACKNOWLEDGE

Picture a potter working with soft clay on the wheel. The clay is soft and pliable in his hands. He is able to shape it into a vessel that's beautiful and useful.

Begin your prayer expressing your trust in God as your potter. That he is able to shape you if you allow him. Give thanks for how he has already formed you into a different person because of Jesus.

## SEEK

The potter in Jeremiah's observation was trying to work with marred clay. Perhaps there was some hard part that was resisting the hands of the great craftsman.

Seek the Lord, asking him to test the pliability of our hearts. Have we become hard in some vital area that resists God working in and through our lives? Take some time of honesty and openness with the Holy Spirit, identifying a hard area.

## AVAILABLE

Conclude your time by taking a lump of clay and making yourself available to God. Ask him to reshape you, and mould you into a vessel that seems best to him. This can be a very significant moment if you truly lay your whole life before Jesus.

# power through weakness

## JARS OF CLAY

### 2 Corinthians 4:7-9

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*

Sitting at this prayer station today, is a testimony about the trials that have brought pressure on our lives. We are still seeking God because His love is holding us together and will never let us go. His life within us is our greatest treasure, and also an unbreakable power.

## GIVE THANKS

Consider the imperfect vessels displayed at this station, and express gratitude to The Lord that his power is greater than our weaknesses and wounds. For some of us who feel particularly broken today, it's an opportunity to recall and list the blessings in our lives. You might like to write these out.

## PRAYER

Consider Japanese Kintsugi art. How broken pots are repaired with gold, making the vessel more beautiful and stronger in the places that were once shattered.

- Ask your Heavenly Father to comfort you and fill you with his love.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to redeem our cracks as a testimony to his grace and power.
- Pray that God would lay new welds of gold, Jesus blood healing our wounds.
- Pray that faith would rise in our hearts today, that God is not limited by our weaknesses, but able to do his greatest work through them.
- Pray for The Grove, that while we have experienced trials, Jesus would be glorified more and more through his church to all generations.



# created to do good works

Ephesians 2:10

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

We are saved by grace, and created to fulfill a marvellous purpose that God planned before we were born. Serving Jesus as his church, whether gathered in a team or scattered through the week, is the greatest privilege of our lives. We are made for more.

As God's vessels, filled with his power and conduits of his love, let's consider and pray around four vessel values.

**Read the brief descriptions of each vessel value.**

- Gives thanks for how God has grown one or more of these values in your life.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal which vessel value is vital for you to be effective in your faith and service.
- Pray for The Grove, that all who serve and lead would do so with humility, integrity, availability and unity.



# humility

(low vessel)

In Greek, Hebrew and Latin, the word humility means low to the ground.

In the negative it means to be put low, that is, to be humiliated.

But in the positive sense, it means to lower yourself...to be humble.

In ancient times, it was often seen as a terrible thing to be humbled.

But we see humility from Jesus' perspective and example.

It's the noble choice to redirect your power in service of others.

John Dickson in his book *Humilitas*, gave this definition.

Humility is the noble choice to forgo your status, deploy your resources or use your influence for the good of others before yourself.

Humility is an attractive quality to people, and its irresistible to God. He loves to pour his life into those who point away from self to his glory, and redirect power to lift others up in service.

John the Baptist said it like this: He must become greater; I must become less (John 3:30).



# integrity

(clear vessel)

In a society that's lost its moral compass, it's hard for people to see the right way to live.

In a time of digital image management, it's hard to see who people really are.

Therefore, it's hard to know what or who to **trust**, resulting in a cynical response to those who claim to have your best interests at heart.

The way to regain trust is through the vessel value of **Integrity**. When people serve with integrity, they offer something that's sought after by those they serve – **transparency**. What they see is what they get. We are not one thing in public, and another in private.

Integrity as a clear vessel, brings a high level of safety, intimacy and love to those we serve and serve with. That's because people with integrity don't pretend to be perfect but have a pure heart (undivided), and therefore pure motives.

**Jesus taught that the pure in heart will see God.** So integrity enables us to be seen clearly, and for us see God clearly.



# availability

(open vessel)

When we can't open a jar of Marmalade or Vegemite,  
we can't get what's inside.

Being a closed vessel means others can't get the goodness  
God placed in us.

Being unavailable means we are closed to God pouring  
new things into our lives.

Jesus promised in John 7:37-38

*"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in  
me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within  
them."*

Available people are thirsty for what only Jesus can give them.  
Living water, which is the Holy Spirit. When we are filled with the Spirit,  
not only are we satisfied in the deepest possible way, but we  
overflow with love and life to the people we serve.





# unity

(solid vessel)

Just as a vessel with cracks in it will leak, disunity in the church can't hold the blessing of God. Unity is represented as a solid unbroken circle, without gaps and divisions.

If unity is a circle, then in the centre of that circle is Jesus. While we all centre on his glory and grace, our unity is strengthened. So it makes no sense to break the circle by trying to be the centre of attention.

When we value humility, integrity and availability, then unity will be the natural result.

## Ephesians 4:1-3

*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

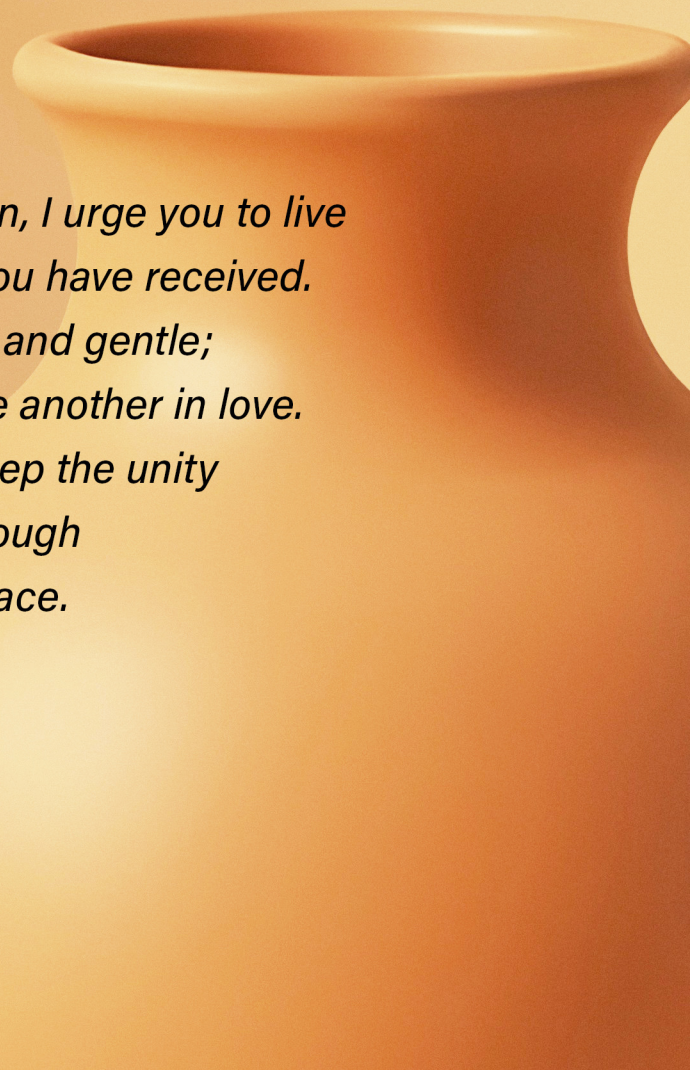
*Be completely humble and gentle;*

*be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

*Make every effort to keep the unity*

*of the Spirit through*

*the bond of peace.*



# reaching more

## NEIGHBOURS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

### 2 Corinthians 4:15

*All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.*

There are some encouraging stories about what Jesus is doing in the world. Even in the West, the church is no longer in decline as more and more people are returning to Christianity. This is particularly evident in the Gen Z generation, but not contained to it.

### GIVE THANKS

We have heard some encouraging stories at The Grove from people being baptised about how the grace of God reached them. So let's spend some time praising God for all the people's lives that are being changed through churches in our neighbourhood and the neighbourhoods of the world.

### PRAYER

It's time to pray now that the grace of God would reach more people, and to take some time naming and praying for people we long to see changed by God's grace this year.

Let's also pray that we would be the sent ones, actively involved in our witness to Jesus. Faith moves from the head to the heart, but its true expression is when it moves from the heart to the feet. Faith is an active word because love is a verb.

# prayer notes



**THE GROVE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH