

Discussion Title: Jars of Clay	Category: Relationships
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1)	Opening Question(s): Where do you store your most precious/expensive items? ● Safe ● Vault ● Bank	Pick 2-3 individuals to share. 5 minutes total.
2)	Why do you do you store your items there? To keep them safe/protected	

Lesson:

	2 Corinthians 4:7	Pick 1-2 individuals to answer each question (Q).
Q.	Does anyone know what the purposes of jars of clay (earthen vessels) served? Note: the Greek word means literally “baked clay.”	Keep track of time during the discussion. Keep the discussion focused and on point. Avoid going off on a tangent topic. Additional notes: _____
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. They hold things. What kind of things could they hold? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sometime they were used to store valuables: money, jewelry, or important documents. ii. Most often they were used to hold garbage and human waste. 	
Q.	This latter use is what Paul had in mind with his analogy. Based on this, how did Paul view these jars? Were they viewed as something honorable or something else?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lowly b. Common c. Expendable d. Replaceable 	
Q.	Who or what are these “jars of clay” referencing?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Us—people. 	
Q.	What does Paul say is the reason for us being jars of clay? Why is it significant?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. God doesn’t expect us to be pristine, crystal vases. He doesn’t expect perfection. b. Our weakness is not fatal; it is essential. Our weakness is a means to display the strength of our God. c. We are as frail as pottery. Look how easily we can be humbled by injuries and disease. A small virus or strain of bacteria brings us to our knees. d. God holds us together. His Spirit gives us strength. 	
	2 Corinthians 12:7-9	
Q.	How did Paul view His weakness?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. He didn’t want it, just as we don’t like or want our weakness. However, even in suffering, Paul recognized and surrendered to God’s will. 	
Q.	What does it mean “made perfect”?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Greek for “made perfect” is τελέω (teleō), which means: to be finished, 	

completed, fulfilled, perfected.

b. It is the same word Jesus used on the cross when He said “It is finished.”

Conclusion:

It is interesting that God came down in a jar of clay (a human body) to fulfill His promises. He didn't come down in His glorious state. Even *He* came in weakness so that His own strength may be revealed to us through a Man.

We are weak, but God created us in His image so that we may hold the gift of His spirit.

Don't ever think you'll fix yourself before coming to God. That'll never work. Come to God so that you may be fixed. If you'd like to get into a Bible study, talk to the person who invited you out. Take the opportunity to see God's strength through your weakness.