Date: 10/20/18

Title: Shaping Play Dough

Theme: If we allow Him, God will make us more like Jesus.

Object: Batch of soft home-made play dough. Piece of hardened play dough.

Text: Isaiah 64:8 (NLT) And yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand.

I brought something in my bag today that lots of kids like to play with?

Who knows what this is? [show play dough.]

How many like to play with play dough?

What are some of the things you can make with play dough?

How about play dough food? What kind of food can you make with play dough?

Have you ever made cupcakes with play dough? You can have a cupcake challenge to see who can make the most delicious looking cupcake.

When I pick up play dough, I usually want to make a snake because they’re really easy to make.

This is really good play dough because it is nice and soft and easy to shape.

But what happens when you leave play dough out of the container or the plastic bag too long?

It gets old and hard like this piece of play dough. [Show hardened piece.]

And when it’s old and hard, it is nearly impossible to shape.

So what do we have to do with the play dough that gets old and hard? (We have to throw it in the garbage.)

In the Bible verse that we read today, it says that God is the potter and we are the clay.

Clay is like play dough. You can form it with your hands to make a plate or a dish or a pot of some kind.

So Isaiah is saying that we are like play dough and God is trying to make something beautiful out of us.

But God is not trying to make us beautiful on the outside; He’s trying to make our hearts beautiful in the inside.

God is not trying to change how we look; He’s trying to change our hearts.

We are all born with a selfish heart.

That means we love ourselves more than anything else.

And God wants to change our hearts so that we can love Him above all, and lover others as ourselves.

He wants to change us to be more like Jesus.

Jesus was the all-time champion of love and that’s what God wants us to be like too.

Now some people don’t want to allow God to change their hearts.

They think they’re happy being selfish and sinful.

And so they harden their hearts against God.

They become like this hard piece of play dough that God can’t change.

And what happens to the hard play dough? It ends up in the garbage.

But if you love Jesus and trust in Him and ask Him to forgive your sins and save you, you’ll be like this soft piece of play dough.

God can give you His Spirit and change your heart to be more like Jesus.

How many want to be like the soft lump of play dough so God can make you more like Jesus?