This lesson is geared more towards middle to older grades.

Activity tie-in: Stained Glass

- Object – shard of glass versus a shaped piece of glass (or a substitute: ripped paper shape versus cut paper)
- Bible verse – Isaiah 64:8 *"Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."*
- Lesson – Just as stained glass doesn't start the way it looks when it's finished, both our spiritual and physical lives are not finished.

Introduction Ideas

- You might discuss how stained glass windows are made – both historically and today.
- You could ask students about the kind of stained glass windows they've seen – what do they represent or convey?
- You could demonstrate various ways of altering something to create a finished product. (Examples: sculpting something out of clay, using sandpaper to sand a sharp edge, cutting a straight edge of a ripped piece of paper, sewing fabric etc.) Apply to how the pieces of stained glass windows are made.

Lesson Suggestions

- Use the verse to apply the concept of how God has shaped us like a piece of stained glass is shaped to fit exactly where it is supposed to. Everyone has different interests, hobbies, and skills, but together we are the body of Christ. Every part is important, whether you help greet at church or teach Sunday School, we all make up the body of Christ.
- Apply that because of our sinful natures, we are that piece of ragged glass that needs to be shaped. God loved us so much that he sent his Son to die on the cross. Christ was the perfect sacrifice, that perfect piece – something that we cannot ever do on our own. It is through Him that God sees us as perfect.
- Apply how making stained glass windows is a process that takes time. Our faith is not suddenly perfect when we are baptized or confirmed, but we continue to strengthen our faith throughout our lives – the Spirit is continually at work and we ought to work to grow in our faith for the rest of our lives.

Questions for Interactive Lesson

- Use the passage to help the students understand what God does for us as the "potter"
    - What does a potter do? How is God like the potter?
        - A potter shapes clay into pottery, such as vases, bowls, and plates. God is our creator – he made us, he controls us, and we follow God's will for our lives.
    - Is every piece of pottery or stained glass made absolutely perfectly? How can we apply this to ourselves?
        - Absolutely not. While a piece of pottery may seem perfect, there might be a slight alteration in the pattern or a slightly misshapen edge. We also are not perfect in any means. We are sinful human

beings who never will be perfect, but because Jesus' death and resurrection, God sees us as his perfect, righteous children.

Closing Prayer

- Heavenly Father, you created the world and you created us. Help us to remember that we are not perfect in any way and that we continue to need your guiding hand. Strengthen our faith and continue to shape our lives in a way that reflects your will and great mercy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.