

Canvas and Clay: The Formation of Redemption from Genesis to Jesus
Church of the Open Door Sermon Series – February 18-April 5, 2026

Series Vision

We live most of our lives in the middle of the story...shaped by forces we didn't choose, longing for wholeness, and wondering what God is forming in us over time. Lent invites us to slow down long enough to notice that God has always worked this way...patiently, deliberately, and lovingly shaping His people over time as the story moves toward redemption.

In this series, we'll trace the **thread of redemption** through the biblical story...from dust and desire in Genesis to suffering love and new life in Jesus...not as disconnected episodes, but as one unfolding work of redemption. Along the way, we'll see how God forms His people through calling and wandering, mercy and presence, promise and waiting, suffering and hope. This is not a story of quick fixes or spiritual shortcuts, but of clay shaped by faithful hands.

As we move toward the cross, we'll discover that redemption is not only something God accomplishes for us, but also something He patiently forms within us...reshaping our lives, reordering our hearts, and teaching us to trust His work even when the form is unfinished. By Easter, we'll see that resurrection is not the abandonment of the old story, but its fulfillment. The same God who formed humanity from dust is now raising new life from death.

Together, this series invites us to locate ourselves honestly within God's story, to submit again to the hands of the Potter, and to trust that even in seasons of waiting, cracking, and loss, God is forming something faithful, beautiful, and new.

A Simple Weekly Practice for Scripture Reflection (*Can be modified for families/small groups*)

We look back with gratitude, and we look forward with openness...

After the Sermon (Looking Back) — “Notice & Give Thanks”

Read: Read through the Biblical text from the previous sermon

Pray: (*Write down your response*)

- » **God, where did Your Kingdom break in for me through this message?**
- » **What phrase, image, or moment stayed with you?**
- » **Where did you feel invited to trust, rest, or respond?**

Offer what you noticed back to God with gratitude and honesty.

Midweek (Looking Forward) — “Read & Receive”

Read: Read the Scripture for the coming Sunday's sermon slowly.

(*You don't need to study it...just receive it*)

Pray: (*Write down your response*)

- » **Jesus, what do You want me to notice in this text?**
- » **What might You be preparing in me before I hear it preached?**
- » **Read the passage once or twice more and ask God to prepare your heart to receive His Word and walk His way.**

Part I - February 22— Genesis 3:1-19 - *Dust and Desire*

Thread of Redemption: Even in the fracture of sin and the return to dust, God does not abandon His creation; He marks humanity with mercy and begins forming redemption in the very place where loss first took root. The story of redemption starts not with human strength, but with God's faithful pursuit of people who cannot repair themselves.

Part II – March 1 – Genesis 12:1-9 - *The God Who Calls Wanderers*

Thread of Redemption: After the fracture of creation in Genesis 3, God does not abandon the world to dust and exile. Instead, He begins again with a promise...calling Abram to step out of the brokenness and into a story of blessing that will one day reach the whole earth. God begins forming redemption through a call into the unknown.

Part III – March 8 – Exodus 12:1-13 - *The Passover Lamb*

Thread of Redemption: God's promise to Abraham grows into a people, who then find themselves enslaved and powerless in Egypt. The God who calls wanderers now acts to rescue them, showing that redemption begins not with strength or success, but with mercy.

Part IV – March 15 – Exodus 19:1-6; 25:1-9 - *A People of The Presence*

Thread of Redemption: Having delivered Israel from slavery, God does not simply send them on their way. He brings them to Himself, forming them into a people set apart...not just to be free, but to live in His presence. God forms people among whom He dwells

Part V – March 22 – 2 Samuel 7:8-16 - *The Promise of a King*

Thread of Redemption: As God dwells among His people, Israel begins to ask what it means to be led and protected in the long run. In response, God makes a promise to David...one that points beyond any single king toward a lasting hope still taking shape. Redemption continues forming through promise and hope.

Part VI – March 29 – Zechariah 9:9-12 & Matthew 21:1-11 - *Palm Sunday*

Thread of Redemption: As God's promise of a coming King begins to stir hope on the horizon, Palm Sunday brings that promise into view...but in a way no one expects, as the long-awaited King arrives in humility and peace, inviting us to receive Him and allow His Kingdom to reshape our expectations. The promise arrives...but not how we expected.

Part VII – April 3 – Psalm 22:1-18 - *Good Friday*

Thread of Redemption: After welcoming the humble King on Palm Sunday, the story turns in a way no one expected...for the King who arrived in peace now walks the path of suffering, revealing that God's redemption is ultimately formed not through power or triumph, but through sacrificial love poured out on the cross.

Part VIII – April 5 – Matthew 28:1-10 & Isaiah 35:1-2 - *Easter*

Thread of Redemption: After the silence of the cross, Easter dawn reveals that God has been forming life and redemption beneath the surface all along, and what seemed like an ending becomes the beginning of a resurrection we could not yet see. Resurrection, the Super Bloom of redemption.

Missed a Sunday? Watch it here on youtube (or go to <https://q.me-qr.com/09yrikt>)

