Re-Shaped

Visual and Media Arts Ideas
from the Worship Design Studio with Dr. Marcia McFee

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About the Series

“Change is good… you go first!” Our brains were designed to be suspicious of change, and for good reason–homeostasis in good measure helps us thrive, protecting us from danger. But if we look closely at what the Creator set in motion, we find that change is actually the most constant part of life and necessary for animating our spirits as we find renewed purpose throughout life. Jesus advocated for changes that would keep us moving toward greater goodness!

This fully-scripted worship series is designed to help your community explore conversations about flexibility, change, and transformation. Change can be challenging, so we’ve chosen to emphasize playfulness and the excitement of possibilities as two key aspects of the theme. The full title of our series is **“Re-Shaped: What We’re Made For,”** highlighting the fact that change is a natural and integral part of the human experience.

The ideas in this document will help you bring this series to life in your visuals and media, giving participants tactile ways to engage with the “re-shaping” theme. Visit the resource page for “Re-Shaped” on the WDS website to connect with other pastors and team who are doing this series in their communities. Post your photos and stories in the Photos and Ideas Feed!



Anchor Image: Play-Doh

Remember the childhood joy of opening a fresh container of Play-Doh? That smooth, rubbery texture and salty scent of creativity instantly spark so many possibilities! You can make a sculpture, press objects into dough to form imprints, roll the dough into snakes, ball it up, flatten it paper thin, the options are endless. Best of all, when you're ready to make something new, just wad it up and start again.

In many ways, we can learn from the elasticity and boundless potential of a simple container of Play-Doh, especially as we approach our ministry programs in the year to come. When we stay flexible, improvise, make room for mistakes, and accept the finished outcome as a beautiful work of art, we give ourselves and our communities permission to participate in the joyful act of co-creation and to delight in the end result, no matter what it looks like. Each week, the sermon is followed by (or ends with) a "Play-Doh Contemplation" activity that can be done in the seats/pews or done by people going to stations around the room, whatever works best, so you will want to have Play-Doh handy for participants to use when the time comes.

Check out our "Re-Shaped" Pinterest board for DIY Play-Doh recipes, print art ideas, sculpture templates, and more! Some highlights are listed on the next page for you to consider if you want to make your own dough.



Basic Play Dough recipe

Edible Marshmallow Play Dough recipe — Yes, seriously!

Cloud Dough recipe using lotion and cornstarch — If you make this option, using unscented lotion may be a good idea in case you have people in your group who are highly sensitive to perfumes and scents.

Galaxy Glitter Play Dough — If you make this, try using environment-friendly biodegradable glitter instead of the non-biodegradable micro-plastic glitters that are often found in craft stores.

Calming Lavender Play Dough — This option incorporates essential oils into the dough, so make sure people know that in case you have folx who want to avoid strong smells. The cool thing about this recipe is that you don't have to stick with lavender either - you can use rose oil, orange, eucalyptus, or other scents.

If you prefer to keep it simple with ready-made containers to give to worship participants, you can order a 42-pack of 1-oz. Play-Doh containers in various colors from Amazon. If you would prefer not to shop with Amazon, there are lots of great products available on the Play-Doh official website, including this 65-pack with lots of different varieties and colors. Here is a 15-piece pack available from Target.

If your crowd would instead appreciate modeling clay instead of Play-Doh, there are good options online like this one from Amazon, or this one. Offering multi-colored choices will help evoke a playful and light-hearted spirit of creativity, and incorporating bright colors and and an eclectic palette to evoke a vibrant range of possibilities is another good way to echo your theme in the visuals.

As your congregants make Play-Doh sculptures as tactile responses to the sermon each week, you can invite them to place their creations on the worship table or a station set up somewhere near the front of your space where everyone can admire the growing collection. If you have a very large group of people gathering, the station could get crowded, so another alternative is to have the visuals team create them beforehand and assemble the display ahead of time.



Pottery

A natural extension of the Play-Doh theme is the “re-shaping” metaphor applied to pottery. There are countless mesmerizing video clips of potters working at the wheel, spinning a lump of clay into a vase or a bowl, and creating a fabulous work of art before our eyes.

To incorporate pottery into your visuals, consider brightly colorful vessels that capture a spirit of whimsy and playfulness, such as these handmade pots for sale on Etsy. You could even have your community create your own collection with a paint-your-own-pottery party! You could also take it a step further by having a class or demonstration with a local potter to see how the actual vessel creation happens. See lots of other colorful pottery ideas on our "Re-Shaped" Pinterest board.



Consider incorporating some “wiggly” or unusual shapes into your visual displays to signify an openness toward things that are not “usual.” Using oddly shaped and asymmetrical candle holders is one good example.







This is also a good time to experiment with colorful communion sets, building on the colorful pottery theme. If you are going through a pastoral transition while using this series, a unique communion set like this one could be a wonderful gift for your outgoing or incoming pastor. You could also make your own and personalize it for your congregation!

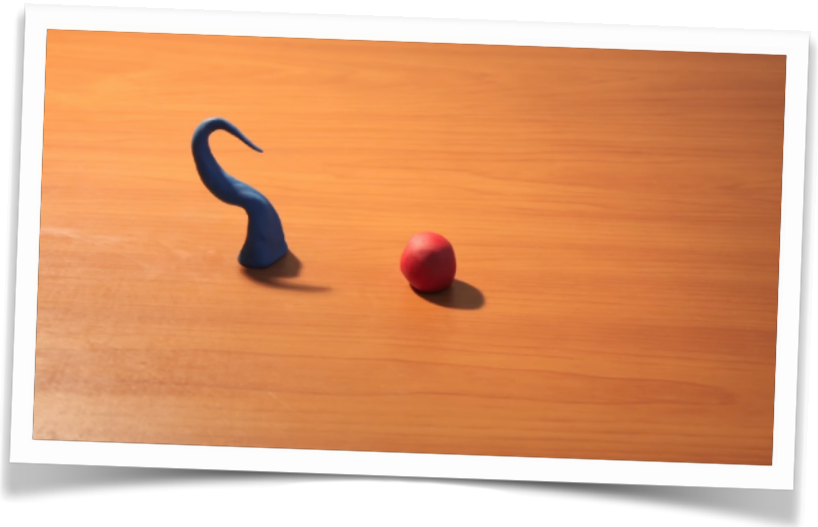
Stop-Motion Animation

Stop-motion is a filmmaking technique that depicts movement by splicing together still images in rapid succession. Stop-motion is different from hand-drawn or computer-generated animation in that there are fewer frames per second and the image subjects are usually real objects that have been photographed in subtly different states of movement, so the transitions are characterized by an intentionally choppier style. This 10-minute video provides a good overview of what stop-motion animation is and how to get started with it.

Claymation is a popular form of stop-motion technique, and makes for a pretty great tie-in to our play dough anchor image! Here's a 5-minute video sharing a basic overview of how to step into the world of creating your own claymation videos.

Check out videos by claymation artist Mamshmam to see what kinds of storytelling you can do with claymation. We especially like this minute-long clip that depicts the process of trying new combinations of color and separating them out again, a neat visual metaphor for the work we sometimes do in our relationships and ministry efforts as a community. Working on a video for your church could be a fun project for youth groups during the series.





Series Logo



Our series logo was created in Canva, an online image editing program that is easy to use and free for non-profit organizations like churches. Click HERE to go to the series logo and use our template to create your own adaptation. We have included two versions: one with the Worship Design Studio logo and URL for the series, and one without that branding so that you can add your church's information.

The font used for the text is Open Sans Bold and is available for free download from Google Fonts. The font used for the "Reshaped" Play-Doh logo is a custom graphic that was created for this series by Jason Moore of Midnight Oil Productions.

New to Canva? Watch this five-minute video with Dr. Marcia demonstrating how to use Canva to create your own images.

Series Trailer

A series trailer is a short video that gives people an idea of what your worship series is going to be about, just like a trailer for a movie! My friend Jason Moore from Midnight Oil Productions has created a trailer that can both be used as-is and adapted to include your church's information at the end. Download the trailer HERE. We have included some blank space at the end where you can insert your church's information (name, location, service times, etc.). And yes, you may share the trailer on social media, your church website, anywhere folks may be interested in learning about your series!



Social Media Images

WDS Social Media Coordinator, Jennifer Yocum, has created a stellar package of images for each week of the series that you are welcome to post on your social media channels.

We have included the branded version of the images with the WDS logo for free. If you'd like to have the freedom to completely customize the images and add your own church's logo and branding, you can purchase our unbranded package for $15, which also includes the link to our Canva template where the images were created. Canva Pro is free to use for non-profit organizations!



Additional Photography Resources

There are numerous great sources for finding high-quality, royalty-free stock photos to use for projection, publicity, and inspiration as you work on and share this series. Here is a photo album on Unsplash that we created just for “Re-Shaped.” Marcia also did a photo shoot with colorful Play-Doh that you can download from Hightail and use in your own media!

Here are our favorite photography websites to peruse for general stock photos: Unsplash, Pexels, Pixabay, Photopin, Picnoi, Flickr, and Compfight.

Video Clip Resources

Looking for stock video footage? Visit the Pexels Videos library and the Pixabay video library for clips that you can use in your own video production. Of course, you can also take and make your own photos and video clips!



Printable Devotional Journals

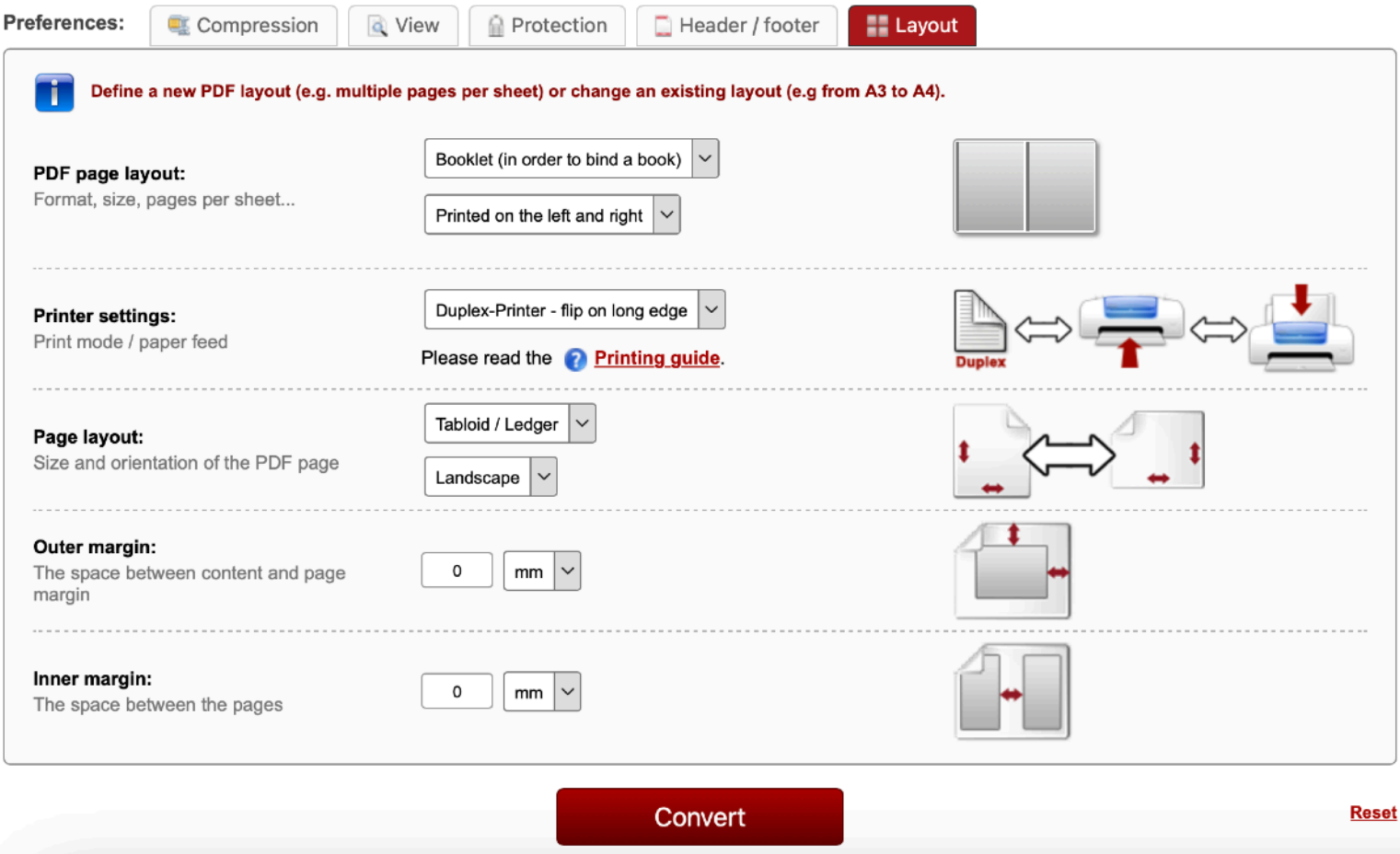
We have created a printable companion journal that you could share with your congregation and invite them to use as a reflection guide during the season. Our journal contains pages for each week of the series. You can access our Canva template and tweak your own version, or use the PDF or simple Word version that we have included in the downloads.

The journal has been sized to fit on 8.5x11” paper. You can use a free online printing service like Online2PDF to make a printable booklet file on 11x17” pages that are then folded in half length-wise.

Click the link above, then click the button that says **Select Files** to upload the original PDF file of the journal.



Now you'll have the option to customize the layout to your liking. You can leave the "booklet" option selected at the top. You may need to adjust the printer settings depending on what kind of printer you have, but try the default settings first. If you are using 11x17" paper, select **"tabloid / ledger"** for the paper size and select **Landscape** for the orientation. When you have the printer settings adjusted to your specifications, click **Convert** to create the file.



When the file finishes converting, you'll be able to download it to your desktop or downloads folder and then start a print job (see an example image of the "success" message on the next page). Review the file first to make sure the pages printed in the right direction. We recommend trying just one print job first to test it out and see if you need to make any adjustments.

Task finished. The download will be started immediately...
By default the file is located in your download folder after saving the file.

Download does not start? Manual download (valid for 60 seconds)
(**Right-click** on the download link and select ***Save target as...***)

Printing guide:

When printing the file please make sure that you enable the option for **Duplex-Printing ("print on both sides of paper")** and that you also select **"Flip on long edge"**. Afterwards you can fold the stack of papers in the middle and get a ready booklet.

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Session One

Introduction to the Change Cycle

We are on a reflective journey together about change. In our first session, we are reminded that change is inevitable and actually necessary for animating our spirits as we find renewed purpose throughout life. Here is an excerpt from scripture:

I went to the potter's house, and sure enough, the potter was there, working away at his wheel. Whenever the pot the potter was working on turned out badly, as sometimes happens when you are working with clay, the potter would simply start over and use the same clay to make another pot. Then God's Message came to me: "Can't I do just as this potter does, people of Israel?" God's Decree! "Watch this potter. In the same way that this potter works his clay, I work on you, people of Israel. — Jeremiah 18: 1-6 (The Message)

Let us light a candle, take a deep breath, and pray:

Creator God,
you sit at the Potter's Wheel
and continue to fashion beautiful things.
Open us to your ongoing re-shaping of our lives
and help us believe that we are capable of change.
Calm our fears, and animate our spirits
for this time of discovery.
Amen.

Scan this QR code to go to the video.

Watch **Session 1** of the interview series at https://youtu.be/Y3ZBO-EptS0

Notes

[For groups]: In our conversation, everyone is invited to share, but sharing is not required. Please make room for all voices, keeping your contribution to a respectful time limit so everyone has a chance. Whatever is said here stays here – not because we are telling secrets but because we honor that what a person says here is their story to share.

I invite you to share something from the video that felt familiar or gave you an "aha" about your own process of change. What felt challenging? These are just suggestions... feel free to share whatever is bubbling up around this topic.

Closing Prayer

From the Gospel According to Gumby,
"Blessed are the flexible for they shall bend but not break."
Remember you were made to survive and thrive–especially
during times of change.
Go into the world knowing
that the Potter God is still shaping and reshaping you
as you were made to do;
that the Teacher Jesus is inviting you to a change of heart,
making it all so very possible;
and that the Adventurous Spirit is luring you to
more play and curiosity in your precious life.
Go in peace,
Stay in courage,
Amen!

References

Below are photo sources found from resources not referenced in this document:

Cover Page
- (p. 1) Background: https://www.storyblocks.com/images/stock/abstract-background-texture-made-from-closeup-of-play-dough-b0diwgtqbzj3bdrtsf
- (p. 1) Bottom: https://www.storyblocks.com/images/stock/kid-having-fun-with-colored-dough-svwcczrqd-j6gnlfln

About the Series
- (p. 3) https://www.pexels.com/photo/photo-of-orange-yellow-and-red-hello-molding-clay-954599/

Anchor Image: Play-Doh
- (p. 6) 2015-05-15 18.03.44 by a lifeofgratitude via CC BY 2.0.

Pottery
- (p. 7) https://unsplash.com/photos/Di04VLigIpU

Stop-Motion Animation
- (p. 9) Bottom left: https://www.pexels.com/photo/close-up-shot-of-a-camera-249597/
- (p. 9) Bottom right: Still from "Incompatible" YouTube video by mamshmam.

Additional Photograph Resources / Video Clip Resources
- (p. 14) playdough by Lisa Maruna via CC BY 2.0.