The Oaks Community Church
Worship Guide

November 15, 2026

I. A Call to Worship

"Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow…" Philippians 2:9,10 (ESV)

II. Family Confession & Greeting

Families as Primary Disciple-Makers

As an Oaks church family, God has called us to make disciples in both the church and the home. Parents and families have a primary role in helping the next generation know and follow Jesus. As a church family, we model, love and support as we come alongside our families.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:6,7 (NIV)

III. Worshipping God through Our Offerings

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Philippians 1:3 (NLT)



IV. Stephen: An Extraordinary Man
with a Revolutionary Message
Pastor Gary Barber

"Stephen is unquestionably one of the most important figures in the history of the Christian movement." – Peter Wagner

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. I Timothy 4:16 (NIV)

- ❖ Acts 6:1-7 – Stephen is chosen as one of the seven new servant leaders.

- ❖ Stephen: An Extraordinary Man – His Character and Conflict – Acts 6:8-15

"Stephen was ... full of the Spirit and of wisdom ... full of faith and of the Holy Spirit ... full of grace and power ... performing great wonders and signs among the people." Acts 6:3, 5, 8 (NASB 1995)

- ➢ The Accusations – Stephen speaks against this holy place [the temple] and the Law, and Jesus will alter our customs.

And fixing their gaze on him, all who were sitting in the Council saw his face like the face of an angel. The high priest said, "Are these things so?" And he said, "Hear me, brethren and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Leave your country and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.'
Acts 6:15-7:3 (NASB)

- ➢ Why was Stephen's face shining like the face of an angel?

- ❖ Acts 6:2–53 – Stephen's message.

1) The God of glory cannot be restricted to our land and our temple. 2) We have a history of rejecting God's appointed leaders. 3) Moses' Law is not an end in itself - It should lead us to the Righteous One, Messiah Jesus.

Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Romans 10:3-4 (NIV)

- ❖ Stephen rebukes the Sanhedrin.

"You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That's what your ancestors did, and so do you! Name one prophet your ancestors didn't persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One—the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. You deliberately disobeyed God's law, even though you received it from the hands of angels." Acts 7:51-53 (NLT)

- ❖ <u>Applications for Us Today</u>

For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite. Isaiah 57:15 (NASB)

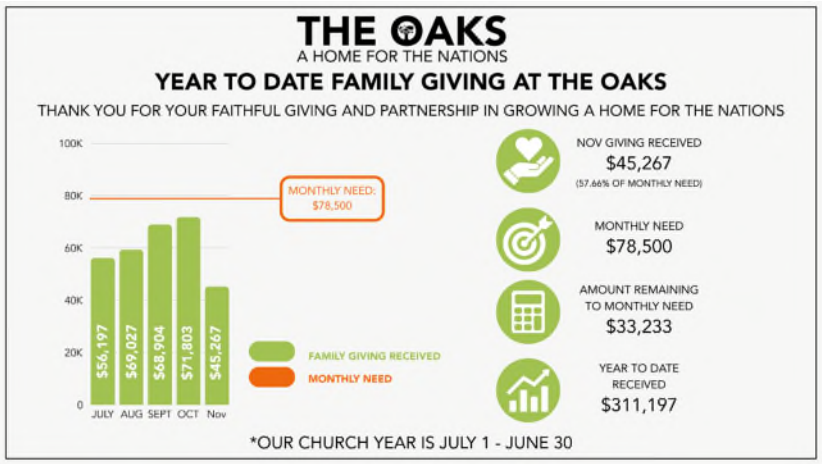
I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of His righteousness. Isaiah 61:10a (NIV)

- Prayer, invitation, and worship.

Community Group Questions
Read Together: Acts 6:8–15 and Acts 7:48–53

1. Read 1 Timothy 4:16. Why is it important to pay attention to both how we live and what we believe?
2. Read Acts 6:3–8. What qualities made Stephen an extraordinary follower of Jesus?
3. Read Acts 6:9–15. How can we respond with wisdom and grace when others misunderstand or criticize our faith?
4. Read Psalm 139:7–10. How does knowing that God is present everywhere encourage you during difficult times?
5. Read Acts 7:35–37. Why do you think people sometimes resist those whom God sends to lead or guide them?
6. Read Romans 10:3–4. What is the difference between trying to earn God's approval and trusting in Jesus for righteousness?
7. Read Isaiah 57:15. What does this passage teach us about God's desire to be close to those who are humble before Him?

Closing Questions:
Is there an area of your life where you need to let go of legalism? Where do you need to experience God's omnipresence more fully in your life?



The Oaks Community Church
10200 Campus Park Drive // Bakersfield, CA 93311
661-663-3888 // www.theoaksweb.com // Email: tocc@theoaksweb.com