

The Oaks Community Church
Worship Guide



May 21, 2023

I. Worship, Praise, & Thanksgiving

But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.
John 1:12 (ESV)

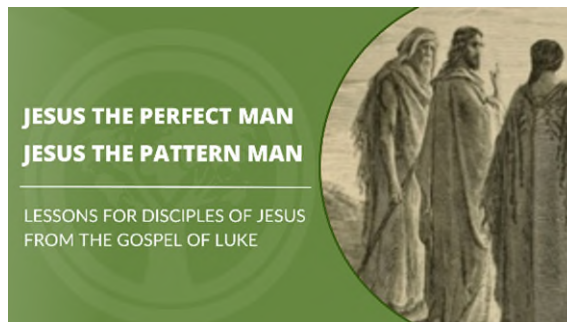
II. Family Confession & Greeting

The Oaks Priority #7

We are a discipleship focused church. We emphasize growing Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus that reflect Him in character, word, and deed.

Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did. I John 2:6 (NIV)

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12 (NIV)



“The Importance of Faith, Mercy, & Humility in God’s Kingdom”

Luke 18:1-17

Pastor Gary Barber

¹ Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, ² saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. ³ There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ ⁴ For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge said; ⁷ now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:1-8 (NASB)

❖ Where is God asking you to persevere in prayer right now?

➤ Why does it take so long for some prayers to be answered?

⁹ And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:9-14 (NASB)

• God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.

➤ The Lord is merciful. He will always meet a person who asks for mercy.

➤ The cross of Christ is the ultimate act of mercy expressed by God to humans. Perfect righteousness and mercy are united at Calvary.

❖ The propitiation of Christ removes God's wrath and releases God's mercy.

○ Exodus 25:10-22; Romans 3:21-25

The Jesus Prayer...

“Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner”

“Lord Have Mercy”

¹⁵ Now they were also bringing their babies to Him, so that He would touch and bless them, and when the disciples noticed it, they began reprimanding them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to Himself, saying [to the apostles], "Allow the children to come to Me, and do not forbid them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁷ I assure you and most solemnly say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God [with faith and humility] like a child will not enter it at all." Luke 18:15-17 (AMP)

❖ How are you humbling yourself (or not humbling yourself) like a child before God?

- Reflection and prayer

III. Worshipping God through Our Offerings

Attendance for Sunday, May 14: 311
TOCC Giving for May 2023
General Fund: \$35,275 / Budget: \$82,500
GCF/Faith Promise/Missions: \$4,647 / Building Fund: \$743

Stewardship Principle #6

"Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your holy name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you." I Chronicles 29:16 (NIV)

3 Ways to Give:

Above God's tithe, we give building offerings for people to have consecrated places to worship and serve the Lord.

1. Online at www.theoaksweb.com or download our app (The Oaks Bakersfield)
2. Mail Check/Drop Off Cash to: 10200 Campus Park Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93311
3. In person through the worship service offering or using the offering boxes

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

Text us to let us know that you are here today or with any prayer request that you have: 661-241-3408