

The Oaks Community Church  
Worship Guide



January 7, 2024

I. Worship, Praise, & Thanksgiving

I love the LORD, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy. Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live. Psalm 116:1, 2 (NIV)

II. Family Confession & Greeting

**Alliance Core Value #2**

Prayer is the primary work of God's people

“This is GOD’s Message, the God who made earth, made it livable and lasting, known everywhere as GOD: ‘Call to me and I will answer you. I’ll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own.’ Jeremiah 33:2, 3 (MSG)

**40 DAYS**  
OF *prayer*

III. **Pray Now -  
Stretching Out In Prayer Together**  
Acts 12  
Pastor Gary Barber

“Prayer... is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings... The potency of prayer has subdued the strength of fire, it has bridled the rage of lions... extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases... rescued cities from destruction... and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt.”  
John Chrysostom

Day 168, The Bible in One Year, Nicky Gumbel

“Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of omnipotence.”  
- Charles Spurgeon

- The Crisis

It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. Acts 12:1-3 (NIV)

- The Intervention

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.  
Acts 12:5 (NIV)

Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.”  
Acts 12:11 (NIV)

- The On-going Overcoming Power of Prayer

Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. But the Word of God continued to spread and flourish.  
Acts 12:23, 24 (NIV)

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21 (NASB)

“This chapter opens with James dead, Peter in prison and Herod triumphing; it closes with Herod dead, Peter free and the Word of God triumphing.”

John Stott,  
Day 168, The Bible in One Year, Nicky Gumbel

## ❖ Ministry Time

### Connect with God Through Prayer

- Scriptures & Prayers on the Screens
- Holy Communion
- Pray with a leader
- Kneel at the altar or chairs

#### IV. Worshipping God through Our Offerings

##### **Stewardship Principle #1**

The tithe belongs to the Lord.  
We give God the first and the best of our income.

“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines. Proverbs 3:9, 10 (TLB)

##### **4Ways to Give:**

1. Online at [www.theoaksweb.com](http://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
4. At the mobile giving station in the back of the Sanctuary

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