

The Oaks Community Church
Worship Guide



August 16, 2026

I. A Call to Worship

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:6 (NLT)

II. Family Confession & Greeting

Soul Care Principle #11

Grieving is a gift from God that enables you to process loss so that you can have a healthy soul.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

III. Worshipping God through Our Offerings

Stewardship Principle

God loves purposeful, generous, and joyful giving.

“Let each one give [thoughtfully and with purpose] just as they have decided in their heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver [and delights in the one whose heart is in their gift].” II Corinthians 9:7 (Amplified Bible Paraphrased)



IV.

God's Gift of Grieving
Ecclesiastes 3, Matthew 5:4, Revelation 21
Pastor Gary Barber

❖ My story of learning how to grieve as a Christian

We experience grief whenever we experience loss.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.... He has made everything appropriate in its time. Ecclesiastes 3:1-4, 11a (NIV/NASB)

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:4 (NASB)

“You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you. Matthew 5:4 (MSG)

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18 (NASB)

We cannot fully embrace the new season God is bringing us into until we honestly grieve what has ended in the season behind us.

❖ The Pain and Joy Continuum.

❖ How do we unpack our grief?

1. Name what we have lost
2. Grieve with the Lord and receive His comfort

❖ There is coming a day when we will never mourn or grieve again.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Revelation 21:3,4 (NIV)

What are the benefits of Biblical Grieving

1. It helps us to live proactively instead of reactively.
2. It increases your emotional capacity to handle life and people more fully.
3. It gives you freedom and permission to risk again and set big goals.
4. It keeps your heart soft and gives you empathy for other’s losses.
5. It restores your capacity to trust God and people again.

❖ Prayer and Reflection

Family/Community Group Discussion

The “Four Questions of Grief”

1. What have I lost? (Be specific.)
2. What am I still grieving? (What haven't I allowed myself to acknowledge?)
3. What am I still holding onto? (Is there something—or someone—I haven't released to God?)
4. What might God be inviting me into now? (Not: “How can I get my old life back?” But: “God, what does faithfulness look like in this new season?”)

