

The Oaks Community Church  
Worship Guide



December 17, 2023

I. Worship, Praise, & Thanksgiving

“For this I will give thanks and praise You, O LORD, among the nations; I will sing praises to Your name.  
II Samuel 22:50 (AMP)

II. Advent

**Week #3 - Joy**

“You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as son the day of Midian.” Isaiah 9:3-4

**GOD’S DESIGN FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY**

III. Flourishing Biblical Marriage  
Genesis 2 & Ephesians 5  
Pastor Gary Barber

➤ Introduction: Human designed “marriages” vs. God’s design for marriage

❖ The Foundations of a Biblical Marriage

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:24, 25 (NASB)

- Severance
  - Permanence
  - Unity
  - Intimacy
- Strike The Original Match by Charles R. Swindoll

A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.... and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.” Ephesians 2:14, 16 (NIV/1984)

- Welcoming Christ’s presence in your marriage
- Focusing on the cross and receiving His peace
- ❖ Essential for a flourishing marriage

Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.... And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:18, 21 (NLT)

- Be filled with the Holy Spirit and submit to one another

Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ. The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands. Ephesians 5:22-24 (MSG)

- Wives submit to your husband, honor him, and respect him.

Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ’s love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They’re really doing themselves a favor—since they’re already “one” in marriage. Ephesians 5:25-28 (MSG)

- Husbands love your wife, sacrifice for her, elevate her

This mystery is very great, but I speak concerning [the relation of] Christ and the church. However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly. Ephesians 5:32, 33 (AMP CE)

❖ Prayer and dedication

#### IV. Worshipping God through Our Offerings

LORD our God, we gathered all these things to build your Temple. We build it to honor your name. But all these things have come from you. Everything belongs to you. My God, I know that you test people, and that you are happy when people do what is right. I gladly give you all these things with a pure, honest heart. I see your people gathered here, and I see that they are happy about giving these things to you.

I Chronicles 29:16, 17 (ERV)

#### **3 Ways 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

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