

The Oaks Community Church
Worship Guide



October 4, 2026

I. A Call to Worship

Blessed be the name of the LORD now and forever. Everywhere—from east to west— praise the name of the LORD.
Psalm 113:2-3 (NLT)

II. Family Confession & Greeting

Heart

Our treasure reveals our hearts. We will not serve money or allow possessions to master us. We choose to seek first the Kingdom of God and trust our Heavenly Father to provide.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... You cannot serve both God and money... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
Matthew 6:21, 24, 33

III. Worshipping God through Our Offerings

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)



IV.

Week 4: Formation
Following Jesus with Your Time, Attention, and Money
Ephesians 4:17-24
Pastor Bethany Rivera

1. THE WAY: FOLLOW JESUS CLOSELY

John 14:6 *Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life.”*

“May you be covered in the dust of your rabbi.” -A Jewish Blessing & Admonition

The goal: Follow Jesus so closely that His life is visible in ours — to become “Jesus people.”

2. CROWDS VS. DISCIPLES

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68)

3. PUT OFF THE OLD. PUT ON THE NEW.

Ephesians 4:17–24 *“You must no longer live as the Gentiles do...” We put off the old self, are made new in the attitude of our minds, and put on the new self — created to be like God.*

- Futility: minds can be full of things that ultimately lead nowhere.
- We can be carried along by the culture, formed in the image of the world, and disciplined by its desires.
- But that is not the way of life we learned in Christ. We change our “clothes”: our conduct, thinking, habits, and way of life.

Romans 13:14 *“Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

4. THREE HONEST INDICATORS: TIME, ATTENTION, MONEY

Where we spend our time, attention, and money gives us a brutally honest picture of what we love, trust, worship, and who is discipling us.

- TIME — What receives the hours of my life?
- ATTENTION — What repeatedly captures my mind, focus, and emotions?
- MONEY — What do my spending, giving, saving, and debt reveal about what I value and trust?

“Watch your life and doctrine closely.” — 1 Timothy 4:16

THE BIG CONTRAST

THE WORLD’S WAY

- Hurry • distraction • consumption
- Comparison • anxiety • exhaustion
- More possessions • impulsive spending
- Security in money • comfort now
- Self-centeredness • endless scrolling

THE WAY OF JESUS

- Rest • presence • purpose
- Seek first God’s Kingdom
- Trust • relationship • focused attention
- Generosity • contentment • eternal investment
- Forgiveness • hope • living below your means

5. COUNT THE COST OF BOTH ROADS

Following Jesus is not easy. But we must count not only the cost of discipleship — we must also count the cost of not following Jesus.

- Life is hard with or without God. The question is: Who are we following through it?
- The narrow road has a Leader, a path, guardrails, and the presence and power of God.

6. PRACTICE COUNTER-FORMATION

- TIME & ATTENTION: Check Screen Time. What is actually receiving your attention each day?
- MONEY: Use a written budget. Look honestly at where your money is going.
- GENEROSITY: Tithing and giving create intentional guardrails that shape our desires and loosen money’s hold on us.
- TECHNOLOGY: Technology is not inherently bad, but powerful forces compete for your time, attention, emotions, and money. Put up intentional guardrails.

- THE HOLY SPIRIT: Nothing should have more formative power over us than the Spirit of God.

Personal Assessment & Application

COMMUNION: ABSORB THE LIFE OF JESUS

John 6:53–54 *“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you... Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.”*



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