

Women in the  
Bible:  
Anna  
and me

“Your word is lamp  
for my feet and a  
light for my path.”

Psalm 119:105

**Close to God, Prophetess  
and Overjoyed**



## Introduction

We don't know very much about Anna the prophetess. Her story is only two verses long. But it is full of faith and inspiration. Even though she was widowed, probably at a very young age, she chose to dedicate her entire life to worshipping God in the temple, night and day.

Anna is continually aware of the presence of God, and she listens to the Holy Spirit. She is so close to God that she instantly recognizes baby Jesus as His son. She is filled with gratitude and praise for God's plan of redemption and she shares the good news with all who are living in hope.

2000 years later we can also spend our lives in worship and praise, wherever we find ourselves and whatever losses we have experienced. God is always close to us, and we can become more aware of His presence, too.



# Anna

Her Name Means “Favour, Grace, Beautiful”

## Discover

- Her life of worship
- Her awareness of God’s presence
- Her desire to share good news with others



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## Going Deeper

1. We know very little about Anna. But what might have inspired Anna to dedicate her entire life to worshipping God?
2. What effect do you think it had on Anna that she actually saw the baby Messiah with her own eyes? How is her response different or similar to the response of Simeon? (Luke 2:22-38)



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3. Anna was a prophetess. What do prophets do?  
(2 Peter 1:20-21)
  
4. What other spiritual gifts, besides prophecy, can you identify in her life? (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:8-10)
  
5. Can you think of other women in the Bible who were also called prophets? (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4; 2 Kings 22:14; Neh. 6:14; Isa. 8.3)



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6. Anna lived a life of prayer. What does Paul say about the importance of living a life of prayer? (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

7. Which other women also recognized Jesus as the Messiah and shared the good news with others? (John 4; John 11:20-27; John 20:11-18)



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## Words for Today



- 8. How can I 'live in the temple night and day' and be continually aware of God's presence in my life?
- 9. How can I include more worship, praise and thanksgiving in my life? (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

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11. Anna shared the good news that the Messia-h had been born with all those who were looking for Him. How do you nurture your own hope? What gives you hope? Who might be the people around you who need some extra hope? Look out for them and share the reasons for your hope with them.

12. Anna gave thanks to God for the gift of His son, Jesus. Make a list of 30 things you want to thank God for today.





## Questions for Discussion

1. How can we experience the presence of God in our lives every day?
2. How can older women encourage younger parents today?
3. How can younger women honour and empower the older and wiser women in our communities?



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## Words of Wisdom

Anna was so close to God because it was her life's work to worship Him continually. Her strong relationship with God enabled her to recognize God at work in the world, and to recognize His son, Jesus. The closer we are to God, the better we will understand His loving character (Psalm 103) and the more likely we are to notice when He is at work around us. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jer. 29:11 NIV.

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## *My Prayer for Today*

Lord. Help me to be continually aware of your presence today. May Your closeness to me inspire me with peace, joy, praise and gratitude, and may I speak Your words with love and courage.

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## *Sharing*

Anna's story tells us that we are never too old to serve and worship God. What are the stories of faith that they can share to inspire us? How has the Holy Spirit guided them in their life? What are their spiritual gifts, and how can they continue to use them to bless others? Who are the lonely widows and single women in your church and community, and how can you reach out and care for them?