

GOD REVEALS MINISTRIES

Anna the Prophetess

A STUDY ON PRAYER,
WATCHFULNESS, AND
RECOGNIZING JESUS

WORKBOOK STUDY

PRAYER & FASTING • SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT • ENDURING FAITH

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Welcome

Anna is only mentioned in a few sentences in the Gospel of Luke, yet her story speaks with remarkable depth and power. In just a handful of verses, Scripture reveals a woman marked by prayer, fasting, spiritual discernment, endurance, and a deep nearness to the presence of God. Though her time on the page is brief, the witness of her life is not small. Anna's story reminds us that hidden faithfulness matters, that long seasons of waiting are never wasted, and that those who remain close to the Lord are often the ones who recognize His movement most clearly.

At God Reveals Ministries, we are deeply grateful to God for revealing the deep things of His heart through His Word and by His Spirit. We are grateful that He still opens our eyes to see truth, draws us deeper into His presence, and teaches us through even the shortest passages of Scripture. Anna's life calls us to watchfulness, devotion, and a steady heart that keeps seeking Jesus. Her story is a beautiful reminder that when we remain near the Lord, He is faithful to reveal what matters most.

Anna the Prophetess: A Biblical Study on Prayer, Watchfulness, Endurance, and Recognizing Jesus

Introduction

Anna is only mentioned in a few verses in Scripture, yet her life carries deep spiritual weight. Though brief, her appearance in **Luke 2:36–38** reveals a woman marked by **faithfulness, prayer, fasting, worship, endurance, prophetic discernment, and a clear recognition of Jesus Christ.**

Anna's life is a reminder that God sees those who remain near Him in the hidden place. She was not introduced as a public celebrity, a ruler, or a person of earthly importance. She was introduced as a **prophetess**, a worshiper, a widow, and a faithful servant in the temple. Her life shows us that deep intimacy with God produces spiritual clarity, and that those who wait before the Lord with steadfast devotion are often the ones who recognize His movement when others do not.

This study will look carefully at:

- who Anna was
- what Scripture says about her
- the meaning of her name and lineage
- the tribe of Asher
- the role of widows in Scripture
- the significance of prayer, fasting, worship, and prophetic witness in her life
- and what believers can learn from her example today

1. The Main Passage About Anna

Anna appears in only one passage:

“Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshipping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.”

Luke 2:36–38, NLT

These three verses are rich with meaning. Every detail matters.

2. Anna's Name

The name **Anna** is the Greek form of the Hebrew name **Hannah**. Hannah is associated with **grace** or **favor**.

That is meaningful because grace is seen throughout Anna's life. Though she experienced loss and long years of widowhood, she was not abandoned by God. Instead, she was sustained in a life of devotion and honored with the privilege of recognizing the Messiah.

The Bible does not build doctrine on her name alone, but it is still beautiful that a woman named Anna or Hannah appears as a figure of grace, steadfastness, and faithful waiting before the Lord.

3. Anna Was a Prophetess

Luke introduces Anna as “**a prophet.**”

This is significant. Scripture openly identifies her prophetic role. She was not simply an elderly woman in the temple. She was a woman recognized for spiritual discernment and for speaking in alignment with God's truth.

In Scripture, a prophet does not create new truth. A prophet speaks in agreement with God's Word and bears witness to what God is doing. In Anna's case, her prophetic witness is especially clear in that she:

- recognized Jesus
- praised God when she saw Him
- spoke about Him to others who were waiting for redemption

This is important because true prophetic ministry in Scripture always points back to the Lord and agrees with His purposes.

Anna's life shows that prophetic ministry is not merely dramatic speech. It is rooted in:

- nearness to God
 - holiness
 - discernment
 - faithful waiting
 - and a life surrendered to worship
-

4. Anna Was the Daughter of Phanuel

Luke says Anna was the **daughter of Phanuel**.

This is the only mention of Phanuel in connection with Anna, but the name itself is meaningful. It is related to **Peniel** or **Penuel**, the place where Jacob said, “I have seen God face to face.”

“Jacob named the place Peniel (which means ‘face of God’), for he said, ‘I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared.’”

Genesis 32:30, NLT

Luke does not directly explain any connection here, so we should be careful not to overstate it. Still, it is a striking detail that Anna, a woman who recognized Jesus, is identified as the daughter of a name connected to the “face of God.” At minimum, it adds beauty to the passage and highlights the depth with which God orders His Word.

5. Anna Was From the Tribe of Asher

Luke also tells us Anna was from the **tribe of Asher**.

This is important because Scripture does not casually include tribal identity. The tribe of Asher carries strong themes of:

- blessing
- abundance
- favor
- richness
- oil
- strength
- secure gates
- enduring provision

Asher’s Birth and Name

Asher was one of Jacob’s sons. When he was born, Leah said:

“How happy I am! And the women will call me happy.”

Genesis 30:13, NLT

The name Asher is associated with blessedness, happiness, and favor.

Jacob’s Blessing Over Asher

“Asher will dine on rich foods and produce food fit for kings.”

Genesis 49:20, NLT

This blessing points to abundance, richness, nourishment, and provision.

Moses’ Blessing Over Asher

“May Asher be blessed above other sons; may he be esteemed by his brothers; may he bathe his feet in olive oil. May the bolts of your gates be of iron and bronze; may your strength match the length of your days.”

Deuteronomy 33:24–25, NLT

This blessing is full of meaning. It includes:

- blessing above others
- favor among brothers
- olive oil, which points to richness, fruitfulness, and often anointing imagery
- strong gates, which speak of security and endurance
- lasting strength for all one’s days

Anna reflects these qualities spiritually. In her, the blessing of Asher is not merely natural abundance, but spiritual richness. Her life was marked by the oil of devotion, the strength of endurance, and the security of a heart anchored in God.

6. Anna Knew Loss

Luke tells us:

“Her husband died when they had been married only seven years.”

Luke 2:36–37, NLT

This is a deeply human detail. Anna knew sorrow. She knew loss. She knew what it was to have her life interrupted by grief.

This matters because Scripture does not present Anna as untouched by pain. Instead, it shows that her pain did not define her more than her devotion did.

Her widowhood could have driven her into bitterness, isolation, despair, or spiritual distance. Instead, she remained close to God.

Anna’s life teaches us that:

- grief does not disqualify calling
- sorrow does not cancel spiritual usefulness
- long seasons of pain can still become places of holy consecration
- God can sustain a person through decades of faithfulness

Her example is especially powerful for those who have walked through disappointment, brokenness, or loss. Anna’s life says: **you can suffer deeply and still live deeply devoted to God.**

7. Anna Was a Widow

Widows are treated with seriousness and tenderness throughout Scripture. God repeatedly shows concern for widows, orphans, and the vulnerable.

“He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice.”

Deuteronomy 10:18, NLT

“Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.”

Isaiah 1:17, NLT

“Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress...”

James 1:27, NLT

Anna stands within this biblical concern. Yet she is not shown merely as someone in need. She is shown as someone spiritually fruitful. She is both vulnerable in earthly terms and powerful in spiritual terms.

That balance is important. Scripture honors the widow not as forgotten, but as seen by God. Anna’s life demonstrates that the Lord can bring dignity, purpose, and holy fruitfulness even in a state of deep loss.

8. Anna Was Very Old

Luke says Anna was **very old**.

This detail matters. Anna’s usefulness in Scripture came in old age, not youth. Her example stands against the lie that age removes someone from kingdom purpose.

The Bible repeatedly honors older age when joined with wisdom and righteousness.

“Some people still grow strong in old age. They will still produce fruit in old age. They will stay fresh and green.”

Psalms 92:14, NLT

Anna is an example of that truth. She was still fruitful. She was still discerning. She was still useful in God’s purposes. She was still bearing witness to Christ.

This is a powerful encouragement that God values long obedience, maturity, and seasoned devotion.

9. Anna Never Left the Temple

Luke says:

“She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night...”

Luke 2:37, NLT

This likely emphasizes constancy and devotion rather than insisting she literally never stepped away physically. The point is that the temple, the presence of God, and the life of worship were the center of her existence.

Anna’s heart was fixed on God.

Spiritually, the outward pattern of Anna’s life teaches us the importance of:

- abiding
- constancy
- nearness to God
- and a life oriented around His presence

Her life echoes the cry of the psalmist:

“The one thing I ask of the Lord, the thing I seek most, is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord’s perfections and meditating in his Temple.”

Psalms 27:4, NLT

Anna lived with that kind of heart.

10. Anna Worshiped With Fasting and Prayer

Luke says Anna stayed in the temple:

“worshiping God with fasting and prayer.”

Luke 2:37, NLT

This phrase is one of the most important parts of her life.

Prayer

Prayer is the biblical practice of drawing near to God in fellowship, dependence, worship, petition, thanksgiving, confession, and surrender. It is not merely speaking words; it is communion with the living God. Through prayer, the heart is aligned with His will, the soul is quieted before Him, and the believer learns to listen as well as to speak.

Scripture calls believers to pray continually:

“Never stop praying.”

1 Thessalonians 5:17, NLT

Prayer is also the place where burdens are cast on the Lord and peace is received in return.

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”

Philippians 4:6, NLT

Jesus Himself modeled a life of prayer. Again and again, He withdrew to pray, showing that communion with the Father was central, not secondary.

“But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.”

Luke 5:16, NLT

Anna’s life reflects this same devotion. Luke says she remained in the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer. This shows that prayer was not an occasional response for her, but a way of life. Her example teaches that prayer is not only for moments of crisis. It is the place of abiding, waiting, listening, and remaining near to God.

Spiritually, prayer helps form discernment, steadiness, and intimacy with the Lord. A praying life becomes more sensitive to His presence, more anchored in His peace, and more ready to recognize His movement. Anna’s life reminds us that prayer is not wasted time. It is holy time spent with God, and it shapes the heart to know Him more deeply.

Fasting

Fasting is a biblical practice of humbling oneself before the Lord, seeking Him with focus, and denying the flesh in order to set one’s attention on God.

“Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face...”

2 Chronicles 7:14, NLT

Though that verse does not mention fasting directly, fasting often accompanies biblical humbling, repentance, and seeking the Lord. Throughout Scripture, fasting is connected with prayer, consecration, mourning, repentance, and a deeper dependence on God rather than on natural strength.

Jesus said:

“And when you fast, don’t make it obvious, as the hypocrites do...”

Matthew 6:16, NLT

In saying “**when you fast,**” Jesus showed that fasting was a recognized part of devotional life. He did not present it as a performance for people to see, but as something done before the Father with sincerity and humility.

We also see fasting connected to seeking direction and ministering before the Lord.

“One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said...”

Acts 13:2, NLT

This shows that fasting can accompany worship, spiritual attentiveness, and readiness to hear from God.

Anna’s life shows that fasting was not occasional to her; it was part of her devotion. Luke says she remained in the temple:

“worshiping God with fasting and prayer.”

Luke 2:37, NLT

Her fasting was joined to prayer and worship. It was not empty ritual, but part of a life centered on the presence of God. Anna’s example shows that fasting can be an expression of love, longing, surrender, and steadfast devotion to the Lord. It reflects a heart that values nearness to God more than personal comfort.

Spiritually, fasting does not earn God’s favor, but it does help position the heart in humility, focus, and dependence. Anna’s life reveals that fasting, when joined with prayer and worship, can become part of a faithful life that remains watchful and ready to recognize the movement of God.

Worship

Worship is the biblical response of the heart to the worth, beauty, holiness, and greatness of God. It includes praise, adoration, thanksgiving, reverence, surrender, and love expressed to the Lord. Worship is not limited to music or singing. It is the offering of the whole self to God in honor and devotion.

Scripture says:

“Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.”

Psalms 95:6, NLT

And:

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice... This is

truly the way to worship him.”

Romans 12:1, NLT

These verses show that worship is both expressed and lived. It includes praise from the lips, but it also includes a life yielded to God.

Anna’s life shows this beautifully. Scripture says she remained in the temple, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. Before she ever spoke publicly about Jesus, she was already a worshiper. When she recognized Jesus, her immediate response was to praise God.

“She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God.”

Luke 2:38, NLT

That response reveals a heart already formed by worship. Anna did not have to manufacture praise in the moment; praise flowed from a life that had been living before the Lord. Her worship was not rooted in outward visibility, but in nearness to God.

Spiritually, worship keeps the heart tender, humble, and God-centered. It lifts the eyes from earthly distractions and fixes them on the Lord. Worship helps cultivate holy affection, gratitude, reverence, and readiness to respond when God moves. Anna’s life shows that a worshiping heart is often a discerning heart, because worship keeps the soul near the One it loves.

11. Anna Recognized Jesus

This is one of the most beautiful things about Anna.

Many people were alive when Jesus came. Many were religious. Many were waiting for redemption in some general sense. But not everyone recognized Him.

Anna did.

“She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God.”

Luke 2:38, NLT

She recognized the significance of the child Jesus.

This is one of the clearest fruits of a life of prayer: **spiritual recognition**.

Anna recognized Jesus because she lived in nearness to God. She was spiritually awake. She was watchful. She was ready. She was not dulled by worldly distraction or religious routine.

Her life teaches that those who stay close to God are often given the grace to discern what He is doing.

Jesus said:

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”
John 10:27, NLT

Anna is a beautiful example of that kind of spiritual sensitivity.

12. Anna Praised God

Luke tells us that when Anna came upon that moment, she **began praising God**.

Her first response was worship.

This is important. When she recognized Jesus, she did not begin with analysis, argument, or self-promotion. She responded with praise.

This is the right response to revelation. When Christ is revealed, the faithful heart answers with thanksgiving and worship.

13. Anna Spoke About Jesus to Others

Luke says:

“She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.”
Luke 2:38, NLT

Anna did not keep her revelation private.

She spoke to others who were waiting for redemption. She became a witness. Her hidden life of devotion overflowed into public testimony.

This is a beautiful pattern:

- secret place
- recognition
- praise
- proclamation

Anna’s witness was not about herself. It was about the child. It was about redemption. It was about what God was doing in Christ.

This is a model for all true ministry. The goal is never to make much of ourselves. It is to bear witness to Jesus.

14. Anna and Simeon

Anna appears in the same temple setting as Simeon. This is important because God established more than one witness to Jesus in that moment.

Simeon and Anna together reflect:

- faithful waiting
- spiritual discernment
- recognition of the Messiah
- public witness to God's promise fulfilled

Scripture often confirms important matters by witnesses.

“The facts of every case must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”

2 Corinthians 13:1, NLT

Though that verse refers to testimony and order, the principle of confirming witness is meaningful here. God gave multiple faithful voices to bear witness to Christ at His arrival.

Anna was one of them.

15. What Anna's Life Teaches Believers Today

Anna's life speaks clearly to believers today.

A. Hidden faithfulness matters

God sees the one who remains faithful in secret.

B. Prayer forms discernment

A praying life becomes more able to recognize Jesus clearly.

C. Worship keeps the heart tender

Anna's response to Jesus was praise because worship was already her lifestyle.

D. Fasting helps train the soul in dependence

Anna's life reminds us that fasting is biblical and useful in a life of devotion.

E. Loss does not cancel calling

Her widowhood did not remove her from God's purposes

F. Old age is not spiritual uselessness

Anna bore fruit in old age.

G. True prophetic ministry points to Jesus

Her life and speech were centered on Christ and redemption.

H. Waiting on God is never wasted

Anna waited long, but her waiting was not empty. It prepared her to see the Messiah.

16. Anna as a Picture of Watchfulness

Anna embodies spiritual watchfulness.

Jesus repeatedly taught His people to stay awake spiritually.

“Keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming.”

Matthew 24:42, NLT

Anna’s life was one of watchfulness. She was not spiritually asleep. She was attentive. She was waiting in faith. She was prepared to recognize the Lord’s appearing.

This is especially relevant in a distracted age. Anna’s life calls believers back to:

- attentiveness
- simplicity
- devotion
- holy expectation

17. Anna as a Picture of Endurance

Anna did not serve God for a moment. She served Him through years.

Her life was not built on one emotional experience. It was built on enduring devotion.

Scripture says:

“Let us not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”

Galatians 6:9, NLT

Anna did not give up. She is a witness to the beauty of perseverance in God’s presence.

18. Anna and the Hope of Redemption

Luke says Anna spoke to those who were waiting for God to **rescue Jerusalem**.

That means Anna's message was tied to redemption. She recognized that God's answer had come in Jesus.

This is central. Anna was not merely a model of devotion. She was a witness to redemption fulfilled in Christ.

All true devotion ultimately leads here: to Jesus, the Redeemer.

19. A Summary of Anna's Spiritual Qualities

Biblically, Anna is marked by:

- grace
- prophetic discernment
- faithfulness
- endurance
- prayer
- fasting
- worship
- watchfulness
- recognition of Jesus
- praise
- testimony
- hope in redemption

She stands as a beautiful example of a life hidden in God yet powerful in spiritual fruit.

20. Conclusion

Anna's life is brief in the biblical record, but it is not small. She shows us what a life of consecration can produce. She shows us that the hidden years matter, that grief does not disqualify devotion, that old age can still bear fruit, and that a heart anchored in prayer and worship can recognize Jesus with remarkable clarity.

Anna did not build her life on visibility. She built it on presence. She stayed near God, and because she stayed near God, she recognized the Redeemer when He came.

Her life calls believers back to simple, powerful truths:

- remain near the Lord
- pray
- worship
- fast
- endure
- watch

- and keep your eyes on Jesus

For God Reveals Ministries, Anna is a powerful reminder that **what God reveals, He reveals to hearts that remain near Him.**

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for the life of Anna. Thank You for giving us this beautiful example of prayer, fasting, worship, endurance, watchfulness, and prophetic recognition of Jesus. Teach us to remain near You with faithful hearts. Let us not become dull, distracted, or weary in well-doing. Form in us the same kind of devotion that recognizes Your movement and responds with praise. Help us to point others to Jesus, just as Anna did. Let our lives be marked by holiness, perseverance, and a clear witness to Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.

Verse-by-verse breakdown of Anna Luke 2:36–38

Luke 2:36

“Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old...”

Anna

Her name is the Greek form of **Hannah**, which is associated with **grace** or **favor**. While Scripture does not build a doctrine on her name, it is a beautiful connection.

A prophet / prophetess

This means Anna was recognized as a woman with spiritual discernment who spoke in alignment with God’s truth. In this passage, her prophetic role is seen in how she **recognized Jesus** and **spoke about Him**.

Was also there in the Temple

This places her in the same holy moment as Simeon. It shows God had more than one witness present when Jesus was brought in. Biblically, important matters are established by witnesses.

Daughter of Phanuel

This is the only mention of her father. The name Phanuel is related to **Peniel/Penuel**, “face of God” from **Genesis 32:30**. Luke does not explain it, but many notice the beauty of that detail.

From the tribe of Asher

This is significant because Asher was one of the tribes associated with **blessing, abundance, oil, favor, and strength**. That Luke preserved her tribal identity shows that God had preserved a faithful remnant.

Very old

Her age matters because it shows **long endurance**, maturity, and faithfulness over time. Anna was not a sudden voice. She was seasoned by years.

Luke 2:36–37

“Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four...”

This tells us Anna knew **loss** and long-term sorrow. She had only seven years of marriage before widowhood.

Yet the passage does not present her as broken in the wrong sense, bitter, or distant from God. Instead, her pain seems to have been surrendered into a life of devotion.

That is one of the strongest things about Anna:

- she suffered loss
- she kept walking with God
- she did not let grief cut her off from worship

Her life shows that deep pain does not cancel deep usefulness.

Luke 2:37

“She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer.”

This is one of the most powerful descriptions in all of Scripture.

She never left the Temple

This likely emphasizes constancy and devotion, not necessarily that she literally never stepped outside. The point is that her life was centered on the presence of God.

Day and night

This shows consistency, perseverance, and a life ordered around God.

Worshiping God

Anna was first a worshiper. Before she is shown speaking, she is shown adoring God.

With fasting and prayer

This tells us how she lived spiritually:

- prayerful
- consecrated
- disciplined
- watchful
- hungry for God

This is why she was able to recognize Jesus. She lived near God.

Luke 2:38

“She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph...”

This shows **God’s timing**.

Anna did not wander in by accident. She arrived **at that very moment**. This speaks of divine appointment. Those who stay near the Lord are often brought into the right moment at the right time.

Luke 2:38

“...and she began praising God.”

Her first response to seeing Jesus was **praise**.

That matters. She did not begin with analysis. She began with worship. Recognition of Christ led to thanksgiving.

This shows a right prophetic response:

- see Jesus
 - glorify God
 - then speak
-

Luke 2:38

“She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.”

Anna did not keep this revelation to herself.

She became a **witness**. She spoke about Jesus to others who were longing for redemption.

This shows her ministry was not only private devotion, but also public testimony.

She spoke to those:

- who were waiting
- who were hungry
- who were expecting redemption

So Anna becomes a bridge between:

- hidden prayer
 - and public proclamation
-

What Anna's life shows overall

From only three verses, Anna is revealed as:

- a **prophetess**
- a woman of **endurance**
- a worshiper
- an intercessor
- one acquainted with sorrow

- one who remained near God
 - one who recognized Jesus
 - one who praised God
 - one who testified to others about redemption
-

Key spiritual themes in Anna's life

1. Faithfulness over many years

Anna shows that long seasons matter to God.

2. Prayer and fasting prepare spiritual sight

She recognized Jesus because she lived in nearness to God.

3. Loss does not disqualify calling

Her widowhood did not end her usefulness.

4. True prophetic ministry points to Jesus

She did not point to herself. She pointed to Christ.

5. Hidden devotion leads to public witness

What was formed in the secret place overflowed in testimony.

Short summary

Anna is only mentioned in **Luke 2:36–38**, but those verses show a woman of deep prayer, fasting, worship, endurance, and prophetic discernment who recognized Jesus and proclaimed redemption to others.

Anna the Prophetess: Prayer, Watchfulness, and Recognizing Jesus

Personal Reflection

1. What stands out to you most about Anna's life in **Luke 2:36–38**?
2. Why do you think God chose to include Anna in the biblical account of Jesus being presented at the temple?
3. What does Anna's life teach you about hidden faithfulness?
4. How does Anna's example challenge the way you think about prayer, fasting, and worship?
5. What do you learn from the fact that Anna recognized Jesus when many others did not?
6. How does Anna's life encourage those who have gone through loss, sorrow, or long seasons of waiting?
7. What does Anna show us about spiritual maturity?
8. In what ways does Anna's life reflect endurance and steadfast devotion?
9. How can Anna's example help you grow in spiritual discernment?
10. What is one area of your life where you sense the Lord calling you to greater watchfulness?

Scripture Reflection

11. Read **Luke 2:36–38**. What words or phrases are repeated in your heart as you read?
12. Read **John 10:27**. How does this verse connect to Anna recognizing Jesus?
13. Read **Psalms 92:12–15**. How does Anna reflect the truth of bearing fruit in old age?
14. Read **Genesis 49:20** and **Deuteronomy 33:24–25**. How do these verses deepen your understanding of Anna being from the tribe of Asher?
15. Read **Matthew 24:42**. How does Anna model spiritual watchfulness?

Application Reflection

16. What does it look like in your life to "stay near the Lord"?
17. Is prayer a daily rhythm for you, or something you mostly do in crisis?
18. What distractions most often pull you away from watchfulness?
19. What would it look like for you to grow in worship as a lifestyle?
20. How can you make more room in your life for listening, waiting, and recognizing Jesus?

Anna the Prophetess Bible Study Worksheet

Part 1: Observation

1. Where is Anna found in Scripture?

2. What is Anna called in Luke 2:36?

3. Who was Anna's father?

4. What tribe was Anna from?

5. What major loss had Anna experienced?

6. What does Scripture say Anna did day and night?

7. What did Anna do when she saw Jesus?

8. Who did Anna speak to about Jesus?

Part 2: Understanding

9. Why is it significant that Anna is called a prophetess?

10. What does Anna's life teach us about prayer and fasting?

11. Why is Anna's ability to recognize Jesus so important?

12. What does Anna's story teach us about faithfulness in difficult seasons?

13. How does Anna's life show that age does not limit usefulness in God's kingdom?

14. What spiritual qualities do you see in Anna's life?

Part 3: Tribe of Asher

15. What is the meaning associated with Asher's name?

16. According to Genesis 49:20, what is Asher associated with?

17. According to Deuteronomy 33:24–25, what are some of the blessings spoken over Asher?

18. How do those blessings help us better understand Anna's life?

Part 4: Personal Application

19. What part of Anna's life do you most want to grow in: prayer, fasting, worship, endurance, watchfulness, or spiritual discernment? Why?

20. What is one step you can take this week to stay closer to the Lord?

21. What does hidden faithfulness look like in your life right now?

22. Write a short prayer asking the Lord to help you grow in watchfulness and discernment.

Anna the Prophetess Bible Study Worksheet Answers

Part 1: Observation

1. Where is Anna found in Scripture?

Luke 2:36–38.

2. What is Anna called in Luke 2:36?

A prophetess, or prophet.

3. Who was Anna's father?

Phanuel.

4. What tribe was Anna from?

The tribe of Asher.

5. What major loss had Anna experienced?

Her husband died after they had been married seven years.

6. What does Scripture say Anna did day and night?

She worshiped God with fasting and prayer in the temple.

7. What did Anna do when she saw Jesus?

She began praising God.

8. Who did Anna speak to about Jesus?

She spoke to everyone who was waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

Part 2: Understanding

9. Why is it significant that Anna is called a prophetess?

It shows she was recognized as a woman of spiritual discernment who spoke in alignment with God's truth and bore witness to Jesus.

10. What does Anna's life teach us about prayer and fasting?

Prayer and fasting help cultivate nearness to God, spiritual sensitivity, devotion, and endurance.

11. Why is Anna's ability to recognize Jesus so important?

It shows that a life close to God is able to recognize His movement and respond rightly to Him.

12. What does Anna's story teach us about faithfulness in difficult seasons?

Loss, grief, and long waiting do not disqualify someone from deep devotion or kingdom usefulness.

13. How does Anna’s life show that age does not limit usefulness in God’s kingdom?

She was elderly, yet she was still fruitful, discerning, worshipful, and used by God to testify of Jesus.

14. What spiritual qualities do you see in Anna’s life?

Prayer, fasting, worship, endurance, faithfulness, discernment, watchfulness, praise, and testimony.

Part 3: Tribe of Asher

15. What is the meaning associated with Asher’s name?

Blessed, happy, or fortunate.

16. According to Genesis 49:20, what is Asher associated with?

Rich food, abundance, and provision fit for kings.

17. According to Deuteronomy 33:24–25, what are some of the blessings spoken over Asher?

Blessing, favor, olive oil, strong gates, security, and enduring strength.

18. How do those blessings help us better understand Anna’s life?

They help show Anna as spiritually rich, enduring, strong, watchful, and fruitful in her devotion to God.

Part 4: Personal Application

These answers will be personal, but they should reflect biblical themes from Anna’s life such as:

- staying near the Lord
 - growing in prayer and worship
 - developing discernment
 - remaining faithful in hidden places
 - trusting God in long seasons
 - responding to Jesus with praise and testimony
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Father, thank You for the life of Anna and for the truth of Your Word. Teach me to remain near You in prayer, worship, and faithfulness. Help me grow in watchfulness, discernment, and endurance. Let my life be marked by a heart that recognizes Jesus and responds with praise. In Jesus’ name, amen.