



PORTRAITS

Group Guide



Luke 2:36-28

36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Anna // August 18, 2024

1. Waiting on something or someone can be difficult. What is most difficult for you about having to wait? Share why you find this difficult.
2. Read Luke 2:25-38
 - a. Why is it important to understand the context of a passage of Scripture?
 - b. How does understanding the context help you understand what the Bible is saying?
 - c. As you read these verses, what is the context Anna lives within? Consider Luke 2:25 and 2:38.
3. What are God's people Israel waiting for? Consider Isaiah 9:1-7, Isaiah 66:13, Isaiah 51:3, Luke 2:9-15, and Luke 3:1-6.
4. Luke tells us Anna has spent the majority of her life, around 60-70 years, waiting for God to reveal himself. As you consider this, discuss the following questions:
 - a. How does Anna wait? What does she spend her time doing?
 - b. What do you learn about waiting from this?
 - c. What barriers might Anna have to push through in order to wait like this? Example - the grief of losing her husband.
5. How do you see the desire for immediacy - for God to give you what you want now, not later - express itself in your life?
6. Read James 4:8 and Jeremiah 29:13-14, then discuss how these promises can help you persevere in the waiting you experience.
7. Spiritual tenacity is cultivated over time. Anna gives us some practices that we can lean into that will help us develop a tenacity in us as we wait on God. Review them and then make a commitment for this week, saying **'While I wait, I will....'**:
 - a. Worship
 - b. Pray
 - c. Fast
 - d. Seek God by coming to gather with God's people
 - e. Speaking and witnessing to Jesus





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[LEADERS NOTES]

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU FOLLOW JESUS

- centralheights.ca/followjesus

STORIES

- We love hearing how God moves in people's lives. If you or anyone in your group has a story and would be willing to share, we'd love to hear it and celebrate with you. You can share your story by emailing stories@centralheights.ca

MESSAGE Video and Audio can be found at:

<https://www.centralheights.ca/currentseries>