

Hello, My Name is Anna

Luke 2:36-38

Anna is one of the Bible's most unusual women. She had spent a lifetime in loyal service to God and was finally able to meet her Messiah. Though only three verses give us the information we have about her, we discover a mature woman to emulate.

1. Anna was a _____.

2. Anna was _____.

We need older saints because of your ...

- _____
- _____
- _____

3. Anna was _____.

4. Anna was _____.

Herbert Lockyer:
"Anna was the first missionary in the New Testament."

Scripture References (In order of use): Job 12:12; Psalm 37:25; Psalm 92:14; Luke 2:22-35; John 8:17

Reference Works: The Gospel of John (Jack Wilson Stallings); The Gospel of John, Volume 1 (William Barclay); John (Kenneth O. Gangel); John—That you May Believe (R. Kent Hughes); Addresses on the Gospel of John (H. A. Ironside); The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters: The Gospel of John, I, II, and III John (Bob Utley)

Discussion Questions

1. Share about an older person (parent, grandparent, mentor) who has made a significant impact on your faith journey. What made them memorable?
2. Read **Luke 2:36-38**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Why do you think Luke chose to include Anna in his Gospel account, even though he only gives her three verses?
4. What does it mean that Anna was called a "prophetess"? How does this differ from common perceptions of prophets?
5. Patrick mentioned three things older saints bring to the church: experience, stability, and time. Can you think of examples of how you've seen these qualities benefit our church community?
6. It was noted that a generation ago, missing more than 4-5 Sundays a year was unusual, but now once a month attendance is fairly normal. What do you think has changed? How has this affected your own church attendance patterns?
7. "Age should never be a barrier to service. You are never too old to be used by God to further the kingdom." Do you agree? What examples have you seen of this principle in action?
8. Anna was "vocal" about Jesus—both praising God and telling others about what she'd witnessed. Why do you think many Christians today are hesitant to be vocal about their faith? What can we learn from Anna's example?

Practical Applications

- **Be Faithful:** Commit to not missing any worship gatherings this month. If you're currently sporadic in attendance, identify what barriers keep you away and develop a plan to overcome them.
- **Be Vocal:** Practice vocalizing your gratitude to God. Say "Praise God" or "Thank you, Jesus" out loud at least once a day. Share something God has done in your life with at least one person this week.
- **Be Available:** Identify one way you can serve in your local church that you've been putting off. Contact the appropriate person this week to get involved.

Daily Devotions

Day 1: Never Too Old to Serve

Reading: Job 12:12; Psalm 92:14

Anna reminds us that age is never a barrier to kingdom service. At 84, she remained actively engaged in worship, prayer, and ministry at the temple. Her life challenges the cultural narrative that retirement means withdrawing from spiritual service. The wisdom, stability, and experience you've accumulated over the years are invaluable gifts to the body of Christ. God doesn't put us on the shelf when we reach a certain age; rather, He continues to use us in powerful ways. Your mileage matters. Your story encourages others. Your faithfulness provides stability in an unstable world. Today, ask God how He wants to use your experience and availability for His glory, regardless of your age.

Day 2: The Discipline of Faithful Presence

Reading: Luke 2:36-38; Hebrews 10:24-25

Anna "never left the Temple but stayed there day and night." Her consistent presence speaks volumes about commitment in an age of convenience Christianity. She didn't attend worship when it was comfortable or convenient—she was simply always there. Her faithfulness created opportunities for divine appointments, like witnessing the presentation of baby Jesus. When we prioritize gathering with God's people, we position ourselves to encounter God in unexpected ways. Consistent presence in Christian community isn't legalism; it's wisdom. It strengthens our faith, encourages others, and keeps us spiritually alert. What would change in your spiritual life if you approached church attendance with Anna's conviction?

Day 3: The Power of a Vocal Faith

Reading: Luke 2:38; Psalm 107:1-2; John 8:17

After witnessing Jesus, Anna immediately began "praising God" and "talked about the child to everyone." She didn't keep her encounter to herself—she became the New Testament's first missionary. Her vocal gratitude and testimony spread hope throughout Jerusalem. Many believers today remain silent about their faith, keeping Jesus compartmentalized to private moments. But Anna shows us that authentic encounters with Christ naturally overflow into verbal expression. Gratitude unexpressed diminishes; gratitude vocalized multiplies. When we give voice to our thanksgiving and share what God has done, we strengthen our own faith while encouraging others. Who needs to hear your story today? What has God done in your life that deserves to be spoken aloud? Let your voice join Anna's in proclaiming the goodness of God.

Day 4: Waiting Expectantly

Reading: Luke 2:25-38; Psalm 37:7-9

Anna had been "waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem." For decades, she maintained hope that she would see the Messiah. Her waiting wasn't passive resignation but active anticipation filled with worship, fasting, and prayer. She prepared herself through spiritual disciplines so she would recognize God's answer when it arrived. How we wait reveals what we truly believe about God's faithfulness. Are you waiting for something from God today? Anna's example teaches us to wait with expectant hope, maintaining spiritual alertness through prayer and worship. Her faithfulness during the waiting period positioned her to recognize and respond when God moved. Don't waste your waiting seasons. Use them to draw closer to God, deepen your spiritual practices, and prepare your heart to receive what He has promised.

Day 5: Assembled Witnesses to Grace

Reading: Luke 1:39-45; 2:8-20, 25-38

Luke carefully assembles witnesses to Jesus' birth: Elizabeth, Zacharias, John the Baptist, shepherds, Simeon, and Anna. Each person from different backgrounds and life stages testified to the same truth—God had entered human history. You are part of this ongoing testimony. Your life, your story, your faithfulness adds to the chorus of voices declaring that Jesus is real and His presence changes everything. The world needs your unique witness. What you've experienced with Christ cannot be duplicated by anyone else. Your age, circumstances, and journey position you to reach people others cannot. Like Anna, you may be strategically placed right where you are to point someone toward Jesus. Who is watching your life? What does your faithfulness communicate about the God you serve? Be encouraged—you are an essential witness in God's redemptive story.

Deacons on Call

Archie Harris and Brad Friesen

Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM
- **First Kids:** Wednesdays at 5:30
- **First Youth:** Wednesdays: MS 5:30 PM; HS 6:45 PM

Welcome

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

Hello, My Name is Anna

LUKE 2:36-38

Verses we all
need to Memorize

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." **John 3:16** ESV

APRIL 26, 2026