

INTRO

- What's the longest you've waited for something important? How did that experience impact you?

Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation. Anna's story invites us to share in that experience.

READ

Luke 2:36-38 (read 2:25-35 for context)

REFLECT & RESPOND

Only three verses describe Anna's life, but even from these 3 verses we can glean a lot from Anna's story.

1. Anna's Story: A Life of Challenge

Anna faced significant hardship, including widowhood and old age, yet remained faithful to God.

Qu: what stands out about Anna's life from the three verses?

Qu: why do you think God often uses people society might overlook, like Anna, for significant roles?

2. Anna's Devotion: A Life Well Spent

Anna dedicated herself to God through worship, prayer, and fasting. If we consider how she spent her years, we may be tempted to think her life was limited or even wasted—what about a career, travel, remarrying, and starting a family?

Qu: how might Anna's devotion challenge us to rethink what it means to live a successful or meaningful life?

Qu: how do you spend your time, and how does that reflect what you value most?

3. Anna's Hope: A Life Rooted in God's Redemption

Anna's hope in God's promises of redemption led her to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Qu: what does Anna's hope teach us about living with expectancy?

Qu: how does hope in Jesus shape the way you approach difficulties or uncertainties?

Application:

- Think of a challenge you are facing. How might God use it to strengthen your faith or prepare you for a greater purpose?
- What does devotion look like in your life right now? How can you intensify it as we move into 2025?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Identify one person you can share the hope of Jesus with this week. Pray for an opportunity and boldness to do so.
- Pray for perseverance through challenges with faith, cultivating spiritual habits of devotion, and living out and sharing the hope of Jesus.