



Your story matters.



MYRC.CHURCH



“**SHARE** the Story”

TOM LUNDEEN, SENIOR PASTOR

MESSAGE NOTES

Most of us have heard of the wise men/magi and their connection to the Christmas story; but we may not be quite as aware of 3 _____ who all have a very unique part of the story of the birth of Jesus.

Note Galatians 4:4a

...their experiences, while 2,000 years old, are incredibly relevant to what we've been experiencing during this _____ year...

Today our focus is probably on one of the least recognized people in the Christmas story = _____

But God specializes in using _____ people in accomplishing His purposes and mission.

1. **Who Was _____?** (note Luke 2:36-37)

Her name in Hebrew = _____ means _____

She was an elderly _____

Very difficult for a woman in this culture to be without a _____

She lived most of her adult life as a widow and _____

She knew _____

She understood _____

But she also recognized that the rest of her life didn't have to be _____, dominated, and shaped by grief and loss.

She is the only _____ female prophet in the New Testament (and only _____ women in the Old Testament are called prophets).

Note [Acts 2:17a](#); [21:9](#); [Exodus 15:20](#); [Judges 4:4](#); [2 Kings 22:14](#); [Nehemiah 6:14](#); [Isaiah 8:3](#); [Luke 2:37b](#)

2. Anna Shows Us How to _____ Christmas

- A. She was _____ to God's promptings (note [Luke 2:25-35](#)) - this day in the Temple in Jerusalem things _____ didn't seem to have changed much...But God was up to something amazing, and while most people were _____ it completely, Anna was right at the _____ of it all (note [Luke 2:38a](#)).
- B. She _____ on God's presence (note [Luke 2:37b](#)) - her commitment over decades of staying _____ to God put her in the exact right place to celebrate the first Christmas week, even as thousands of others in the Temple rushed here and there doing religious things, but missing out on God's great _____ and purpose.
- C. She _____ to everyone about Jesus (note [Luke 2:38b](#)) - we don't have to be a _____ like Anna to tell others about Jesus.

*God wants our holidays to be filled with **His** light.*

- Will being angry and sad about what we don't have for Christmas 2020 (and uncertainty about the new year) _____ this Christmas week...
- ...or will we _____ how Anna celebrated the first Christmas?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!
Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: What are some ways that you or your family are ensuring that your Christmas stays focused on Jesus this year?

1. Okay, be honest, how many of you had a good idea of who Anna was before the message?
2. What are some of the similarities between Anna's circumstances and yours? Read [Luke 2:36-37](#) and reference your message notes.
3. How have you refused to have your life "defined, dominated, and shaped by grief and loss?"
4. Anna was going about her life as usual when she encountered Jesus along with his parents. How does her routine and response compare to ours? Read [Luke 2:37b-38](#).
5. "God wants our holidays to be filled with His light." What will you choose to embrace this Christmas; anger and sadness or worship and hope?

Day One: [Matthew 21](#)

Day Two: [Matthew 22](#)

Day Three: [Matthew 23](#)

Day Four: [Matthew 24](#)

Day Five: [Matthew 25](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE



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MESSAGE NOTES

Most of us have heard of the wise men/magi and their connection to the Christmas story; but we may not be quite as aware of 3 women who all have a very unique part of the story of the birth of Jesus.

Note Galatians 4:4a

...their experiences, while 2,000 years old, are incredibly relevant to what we've been experiencing during this challenging year...

Today our focus is probably on one of the least recognized people in the Christmas story = Anna

But God specializes in using ordinary people in accomplishing His purposes and mission.

1. **Who Was Anna?** (note Luke 2:36-37)

Her name in Hebrew = Hannah means gracious.

She was an elderly widow.

Very difficult for a woman in this culture to be without a husband.

She lived most of her adult life as a widow and alone.

She knew grief.

She understood loss.

But she also recognized that the rest of her life didn't have to be defined, dominated, and shaped by grief and loss.

She is the only named female prophet in the New Testament (and only 5 women in the Old Testament are called prophets).

Note [Acts 2:17a](#); [21:9](#); [Exodus 15:20](#); [Judges 4:4](#); [2 Kings 22:14](#); [Nehemiah 6:14](#); [Isaiah 8:3](#); [Luke 2:37b](#)

2. Anna Shows Us How to Celebrate Christmas

- A. She was sensitive to God's promptings (note [Luke 2:25-35](#)) - this day in the Temple in Jerusalem things outwardly didn't seem to have changed much...But God was up to something amazing, and while most people were missing it completely, Anna was right at the center of it all (note [Luke 2:38a](#)).
- B. She focused on God's presence (note [Luke 2:37b](#)) - her commitment over decades of staying connected to God put her in the exact right place to celebrate the first Christmas week, even as thousands of others in the Temple rushed here and there doing religious things, but missing out on God's great plan and purpose.
- C. She talked to everyone about Jesus (note [Luke 238b](#)) - we don't have to be a prophet like Anna to tell others about Jesus.

God wants our holidays to be filled with His light.

- Will being angry and sad about what we don't have for Christmas 2020 (and uncertainty about the new year) dominate this Christmas week...
- ...or will we embrace how Anna celebrated the first Christmas?

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