



PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

LESSON 18 LUKE 2:25-38

1. How has your attitude about prayer been changed by the previous study on **Mary's song**, and where did you find yourself convicted by Mary's humility?

SIMEON AND ANNA: LIFE OF WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Simeon and Anna longed for the coming of the Messiah and anxiously awaited Him. The Old Testament predicted the Messiah from the very beginning, starting with **Genesis 3:15**. His life and death were prophesied throughout Scripture, notably in **Psalms 22** and **Isaiah 53**. At just the right time, Scripture was fulfilled, and Jesus entered the world as a baby. His parents took Him to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (**Luke 2:22-24**).

2. Prayerfully read **Luke 2:25-38** and allow these "older and wiser" believers to teach you about expectant prayer. When and how have you been influenced by someone "older and wiser" in their faith in God?
3. a) What do you learn about Simeon from **V25-28**? (For help in understanding the reference to the "consolation of Israel," look back to **Luke 1:68-75**.)

b) What did the Holy Spirit reveal to Simeon and then prompt him to do? How does that astound you?

4. Ponder the role of the Holy Spirit in prayer and how He might lead you to pray. What are some truths about the Holy Spirit and prayer from these verses?

- John 14:15-17

- John 16:13-15

- Romans 8:26-28

- Colossians 1:9

5. a) What are the important ramifications of the good news and the hard news in Simeon's prophesy about Jesus in **Luke 2:29-35**?

b) What do you think it meant to Simeon to hold the promised Messiah in his arms and speak to His earthly parents? What do you think the interaction with Simeon meant to Joseph and Mary?

6. a) Read **V36-37**. What do you learn about Anna and how she lived her life?

b) Anna worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Describe what these disciplines might have looked like as they were expressed in her life? Read **1Thessalonians 5:16-18** and share how you are convicted or inspired by Anna's lifestyle of devotion.

7. A prophet speaks for God. What greater understanding or appreciation do you gain for Anna and her closeness to God after reading **Luke 2:36-38**? (see also **Numbers 12:6, Acts 10:43**).
8. What aspects of prayer do you see beautifully exemplified by Simeon and Anna? In what areas of your prayer life do you see the greatest opportunity for growth?

9. **HEART REFLECTION**

Contemplate and meditate on **Psalm 5:3 "In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly."** As you think of Anna's and Simeon's lives, write an expectant prayer to see Jesus in a new or deeper way for yourself or a loved one.

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST