**Prayers of simeon and anna**

**seeing god at work**

Group Discussion. On a piece of paper, write the names of several older people who have been models for you, particularly in the area of prayer. Beside their names, list the character traits they modeled for you and note any ways those traits spilled over into their prayer life. Describe to the group one of those character traits and how the person modeled it.

Personal Reflection. Spend some time thinking about the older people in your life who have been models for you, particularly in the area of prayer. Write out a prayer thanking God for the way they influenced you, and in the prayer ask for God’s help to be a model to people who are younger than you.

Anna and Simeon in Luke 2 have been models of older age and wisdom for many Christians over the centuries. Their stories help us learn to be open to the Spirit when we pray. *Read Luke 2:22–38.*

**1.** Imagine you’re walking closely behind Mary and Joseph after these events and overhear their conversation. What do you think they might say to each other or remark about as they leave the temple with Jesus?

**2.** What do we learn about Mary and Joseph from verses 22 to 24?

**3.** Luke describes Simeon as “righteous and devout” and says “the Holy Spirit was upon him” (v. 25). What do you think these characteristics look like as they’re lived out in everyday life?

**4.** In what ways would you like the Holy Spirit to be more present in your life?

**5.** Paraphrase Simeon’s prayer in verses 29 to 32 to express his main point.

**6.** What do you think is the significance of Simeon’s inclusion of “all people” in his prayer (v. 31)?

**7.** Anna and her actions are described in verses 36 to 38. Compare and contrast the description of Anna with the words about Simeon in verses 25 to 28.

**8.** Describe some of the ways you would like to resemble Simeon and Anna.

**9.** The combination of obedience to God’s word and openness to the Holy Spirit’s guidance enabled Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna to experience this amazing moment. How do obedience to God and openness to the Spirit lay a foundation for prayer?

**10.** How have you seen obedience and openness to the Spirit work together in your life?

What would help you grow in these two areas?

**11.** When you look back on the past week, what can you see God doing?

*Spend some time praising and thanking God for his actions in your life during the past week.*

**Now or Later**

Luke 1:57–79 records the events around the birth of John the Baptist, which are similar to Simeon and Anna’s story; both involve God’s miraculous action and a spoken prayer. The prayer of Zechariah, John the Baptist’s father, is traditionally read during morning prayer because of the reference to the “rising sun” (v. 78). Read the whole passage, then focus on Zechariah’s prayer and compare and contrast it with Simeon’s prayer. Use parts of either or both prayers to express your praise to God for his work.

Read Psalm 92 twice, the first time to get a sense of what the psalm is saying and the ways it parallels the lives of Anna and Simeon, and the second time slowly, praying the words.[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Baab, L. M. (2010). [*Prayers of the New Testament: 8 Studies for Individuals or Groups: With Notes for Leaders*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lfgdprysnt?ref=Page.p+14&off=340&ctx=ntercessory+prayer%3f%0a~Group+Discussion.+On) (pp. 14–17). Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect: An Imprint of InterVarsity Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)