

Small Group Guide: Simeon and Anna - Pointing to Jesus



Opening Prayer

Begin your time together asking God to open your hearts to learn from Simeon and Anna's example and to help you point others to Jesus.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you were waiting expectantly for something important. How did that waiting shape your perspective or actions?

Key Takeaways

1. **Active Seeking vs. Passive Hoping:** Simeon and Anna didn't just hope the Messiah would come—they actively looked for Him daily.
2. **Faithful Endurance:** Both spent years faithfully seeking God with no immediate results, yet never gave up.
3. **Pointing Away from Self:** After their encounter with Jesus, Simeon and Anna faded into the background, having pointed others to Christ rather than making themselves the focus.

4. **The Cost of Discipleship:** Simeon's prophecy to Mary reminds us that following Jesus involves both joy and suffering.
5. **Legacy of Faithfulness:** True spiritual legacy isn't about being remembered—it's about pointing people to Jesus.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:21-38

Have someone read this passage aloud, then take a moment of silence to reflect.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **What stands out to you most about Simeon's response when he sees Jesus?** What does his prayer reveal about what he understood about the Messiah's mission?
2. **The passage describes Simeon as "righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel."** What do you think characterized his daily life based on these descriptions?
3. **Why do you think Luke includes Anna in this account?** What does her presence add to the story?

Personal Reflection

4. **The sermon contrasts "actively looking" for Jesus with "passively hoping" for Him.** Which better describes your current spiritual life? What would it look like to move toward more active seeking?
5. **Simeon had been promised he wouldn't die until he saw the Messiah, yet he still had to show up at the temple daily for years.** How do you handle seasons when God has promised something but you're still waiting?
6. **The pastor mentioned wanting his legacy to be pointing people to Jesus rather than being remembered himself.** How does this challenge our culture's emphasis on personal branding and recognition? How does it challenge you personally?

Application

7. **Simeon immediately recognized Jesus and proclaimed who He was.** What helps us recognize Jesus' work in our everyday lives? What might cause us to miss Him?
8. **Anna "began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem."** Who in your life is "waiting for redemption"? How can you point them to Jesus this week?
9. **Mary and Joseph were "just doing their duty" when they encountered Simeon and Anna.** How might God use our ordinary obedience in extraordinary ways?

Going Deeper

10. **Simeon prophesied that Jesus would cause "the fall and rising of many in Israel."** Why does Jesus' message both lift people up and bring others down? How have you experienced this in your own life or witnessed it in others?
11. **The sermon notes that Simeon had access to the Holy Spirit before Pentecost because of his faithfulness.** How does the Holy Spirit guide us today in recognizing and pointing to Jesus?
12. **Simeon told Mary "a sword will pierce through your own soul also."** What does this teach us about the cost of being close to Jesus? How do we reconcile joy in salvation with the suffering that sometimes accompanies discipleship?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Active Seeking

- Set aside 15 minutes daily to actively seek Jesus through prayer, Scripture, or worship
- Journal about where you see Him at work in your daily life

Option 2: Pointing Others to Jesus

- Identify one person in your life who needs to hear about Jesus
- Pray for an opportunity to share what He means to you
- Look for one natural way to point them toward Christ

Option 3: Faithful Endurance

- If you're in a season of waiting, commit to showing up faithfully like Simeon
- Create a reminder (phone alert, sticky note, etc.) to pray expectantly each day
- Share your waiting journey with one trusted friend for accountability

Group Activity

Legacy Exercise: Take 5-10 minutes of quiet time for each person to write down:

- What do you want people to remember about you?
- What do you want people to remember about Jesus because of you?
- What needs to change for those two answers to align?

Share with the group if comfortable.

Reflection Questions for the Week

- Am I actively looking for Jesus, or just passively hoping He'll show up?
 - When I talk about my faith, do I make it about me or about Him?
 - What would it look like to "fade into the background" while pointing others to Jesus?
 - Where do I need the Holy Spirit's guidance to recognize Jesus at work?
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Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- For eyes to actively see Jesus in daily life
 - For courage to point others to Him rather than ourselves
 - For faithfulness in seasons of waiting
 - For the Holy Spirit to make us like Simeon and Anna
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Next Steps

- Share one takeaway from tonight's discussion with someone outside the group

- Memorize Luke 2:29-30 (Simeon's prayer)
- Read ahead for next week's study

Leader Notes

- Allow silence after questions—don't rush to fill it
- Encourage honest sharing about struggles with pride or wanting recognition
- Be prepared to share your own example of "fading into the background" to point to Jesus
- Close by affirming that small, faithful steps matter to God

5-Day Devotional: Seeking and Pointing to Christ



Day 1: Faithful Obedience in Small Things

Reading: Luke 2:21-24

Devotional: Joseph and Mary's simple obedience reminds us that faithfulness begins in ordinary moments. They weren't wealthy or prominent, yet they carefully followed God's commands in dedicating Jesus. Their humble sacrifice of two turtle doves reveals that God doesn't measure our devotion by material abundance but by heart commitment. Today, consider the "small" acts of obedience in your life—the daily disciplines, the quiet prayers, the unnoticed faithfulness. These seemingly insignificant moments prepare us for greater purposes in God's kingdom. Like Mary and Joseph, we honor God not through spectacular gestures but through consistent, humble obedience to His Word. What ordinary act of faithfulness is God calling you to today?

Day 2: Waiting Expectantly for God

Reading: Luke 2:25-26; Psalm 27:13-14

Devotional: Simeon didn't passively hope for the Messiah—he actively waited with expectation. The Holy Spirit had promised him something remarkable, and Simeon positioned himself to receive it. He went to the temple daily, seeking, watching, anticipating. This is the difference between wishful thinking and biblical hope. True waiting involves preparation, positioning, and persistence. Simeon waited for years without results,

yet never abandoned his post. Are you actively seeking God's promises, or merely hoping they'll somehow find you? Expectant waiting means aligning your life with God's purposes, staying faithful in the place He's called you, and keeping your spiritual eyes open. What promise of God are you waiting for? How can you wait more expectantly today?

Day 3: Eyes That Truly See

Reading: Luke 2:27-32; 2 Kings 6:15-17

Devotional: When Simeon saw Jesus, he recognized what others missed. The temple was filled with people that day, but only Simeon saw salvation incarnate. Spiritual sight requires more than physical presence—it demands discernment cultivated through devotion. Simeon's years of prayer, fasting, and faithfulness had trained his eyes to recognize God's work. How often do we miss God's movement because we're not truly looking? The Messiah can be right before us in Scripture, in community, in circumstances, yet we remain blind. Simeon teaches us that seeing God requires intentional seeking. Spiritual vision sharpens through worship, prayer, and prolonged time in God's presence. Ask God today to open your eyes to see Him clearly in unexpected places.

Day 4: The Cost of Following Christ

Reading: Luke 2:33-35; John 19:25-27

Devotional: Simeon's prophecy to Mary reveals a profound truth: following Jesus brings both blessing and suffering. A sword would pierce Mary's soul as she watched her son crucified. She experienced the unique pain of loving the Savior intimately while watching Him suffer for the world's redemption. This reminds us that God's purposes often include our pain. Faith doesn't exempt us from hardship; sometimes it leads us directly into it. Yet Mary's presence at the cross, and later at the resurrection, shows that enduring suffering with Christ leads to participating in His victory. What difficulties are you facing in your walk with God? Remember, the same path that led Mary through heartbreak also led her to witness the empty tomb. Stay faithful through the pain.

Day 5: A Life That Points to Jesus

Reading: Luke 2:36-38; John 3:30

Devotional: Anna and Simeon's legacy is beautiful in its simplicity: they pointed others to Jesus, then faded into the background. We remember them not for their accomplishments but for their faithfulness in directing attention away from themselves toward the Messiah. This is the heart of true ministry—decreasing so Christ can increase. In a culture obsessed with personal branding and legacy-building, their example challenges us. What if our greatest achievement was that people forgot us but remembered Jesus? Anna spent

decades in prayer and worship, preparing for one moment to proclaim redemption. Then she disappeared from the narrative, her purpose fulfilled. How are you using your life to point others to Christ? May we live so surrendered that Jesus, not our names, is what people remember.