

CBC's Women's Ministry Bible Study
TWELVE EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN by John MacArthur
CHAPTER 7 - *Anna: The Faithful Witness (Luke 2:38)*

After reading chapter seven, please respond to each item in preparation for group discussion:

1. For what reason was Messianic expectation running high in the early first century?

2. What expectations were not met that caused faithful believers in Israel to fail to recognize his birth?

3. Who was also born near this time whose life's purpose would be to point the way to Christ?

4. Which Israelites DID recognize Jesus at his birth? What did they have in common?

5. Only three verses are recorded about Anna, one of Jesus' first faithful witnesses. We are told she was a widow living at the temple. Recalling what had just happened at the temple is important to our understanding of these verses.
 - Who had just pronounced a prophetic blessing over infant Jesus that Anna, "*in that instant (NIV)*" overheard? What did this person have in common with Anna?

 - Why was her presence in that very place "*at that very moment (NASB)*" cause for wonder?

6. What was Anna's giftedness and habit that lead to her being called a "prophetess"?

7. How did the mention of Anna's tribe glorify God? In what way(s) could this be our encouragement?

8. *“Fasting by itself is not a particularly useful exercise. But fasting with prayer reveals a heart so consumed with praying, and so eager to receive the blessing being sought, that the person simply has no interest in eating. That is when fasting has real value.”*

List points you would like to bring up in discussion of this statement.

9. Anna’s “coming at that very moment” to witness what she did causes us to reason that Anna’s long years of service through prayer and fasting had been blessed. What was her immediate response?

10. To whom did Anna dedicate her witness of Jesus from that time forward?

11. Anna continued to “*SPEAK of Him*” to those God put in her path. To whom have you been given opportunity to speak to of Jesus?

Let us pray for one another’s opportunity for and obedience to speak of Jesus Christ the Messiah without hesitation and with much joy.

“And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.” Luke 2:36-38 NASB