



## Leader Guide

# Simeon Says and Anna's Austerity

*November 28, 2021*

**Main Passage: Luke 2:25-38**

## Theological Theme

In this passage, we encounter the themes of hope, peace, and joy, all of which are tied to the glory of God expressed in the coming of the Messiah. The accounts of Simeon and Anna provide a picture of peace in a chaotic world.

## Introduction

- ❓ Has there ever been a time in your life when you were at perfect peace? Did it have to do with a location or circumstances? Was it the result of a personal relationship?
- ❓ How do people seek to find peace? What are some different things people look to for peace? Where do you think true peace can be found? Explain.

In our lesson today, we will focus on Simeon and Anna and dig a bit deeper into what it means to long for something more and how that longing connects to peace. Peace may be described in two ways: a subjective feeling in the heart or an objective reality between two parties that were formerly in conflict. These two perspectives, as they relate to Christian peace, are closely connected.

## 1. Dismiss Your Servant in Peace (Luke 2:25-29)

Peace with God through Christ makes it possible for Christians to continually experience peace in their hearts. However, it's important to remember that the objective peace we have with God because of Christ's merits is a settled fact. Subjective peace, on the other hand, is a matter of sanctification and daily dying to self. Peace in our hearts is there for the taking, but it won't be forced upon us.

## 2. The Fall and Rise of Many (Luke 2:30-35)

Simeon pointed to the infant Christ as the world's hope for peace. He said, "For my eyes have seen your salvation. You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples—a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32). Jesus was the salvation God had been preparing and revealing since Genesis 3.

## 3. Fasting and Prayers (Luke 2:36-38)

Simeon wasn't the only person who rejoiced to see the Messiah that day. Anna was there also. Luke explained that Anna was a widow and a prophetess. She "did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer" (v. 37). Anna saw the child and may have even heard Simeon's words about Him. Anna's natural response to Jesus was telling others about Him. Of course, she didn't have all of the information. She didn't know about the miracles He would perform or the teachings He would give. She didn't know He would be betrayed, crucified, and raised again. But she knew He would be the "redemption of Israel," and the joy and peace she experienced compelled her to tell others about Him.

## Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?