

JESUS FOLLOWERS SEEK THE KING

ADVENT: THE KING IS COMING

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS SEEK THE KING

Hosea 3:5; 1 Chronicles 16:10; Mark 16:6; Colossians 3:1; Deuteronomy 4:29; Psalm 24:6; 63:1; Matthew 6:33; Hebrews 11:6

BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 2:36-37

And there was a prophetess, Anna...She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

BIG IDEAS

- We seek the King earnestly every day.
- We seek the King through sacrificial worship.
- We seek the King through prayer and fasting.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 2:22-38

God's people seek the King earnestly. Anna sought the coming King earnestly by committing her life to serve God in the temple. She worshiped the coming King through prayer and fasting, waiting for the Promised Messiah daily. God blessed her and allowed her to see the Promised Messiah in her lifetime.

ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means "arrival" or "coming". During Advent season God's people remember and rejoice in Jesus' first coming to save his people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for his return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the one true King!



Every child should know that:

- Jesus is the one and only King.
- Jesus came and is coming again.
- We exist for Jesus.



Every child should feel:

- The longing within their soul for the King.
- A dissatisfaction within their soul for things of the world.
- Awe and wonder that the King has come and is coming again.



Every child should strive to:

- Spend time each week with their family talking about the King.
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week.
- Tell someone else about the King who came and is coming again.



Every child should want to:

- Trust the King in the everyday struggles of life.
- See and seek Jesus more than anything else this Christmas season.
- Tell others who are lost about the good news of the King.

FAMILY DEVOTION: SEEKING THE KING

God's people grow in their desire to see the King. They seek Him earnestly by devoting their lives to knowing Him and growing to be like Him. Anna set the example for earnest devotion in her humble service to the King.

BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 2:36-37

And there was a prophetess, Anna...She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

Anna was a Godly, humble servant.

"And there was a prophetess, Anna...She did not depart from the temple..."

- Anna was a follower of God. She devoted her life to God and served Him in the temple. Anna was Godly. She loved God and sought to obey Him and His commands. Her life exemplified a true follower of God who sought the King and waited for Him earnestly.
- Anna was a humble servant. She set aside her own desires and gave her life to serving God in the temple. She lived a humble life for God and lived out her faith in Him and His promise of the coming King by serving in Him always.

Anna sought the King earnestly.

"She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day."

- To be earnest is to truly desire something or someone and to be honest and humble in seeking the thing that is desired. Anna sought the King earnestly. She did so first by seeking God through her service to Him in the temple. She served Him daily, living her life in temple service rather than remarrying.
- Anna sought the coming King earnestly through her worship and prayers. She looked for His coming every day as she served in the temple and prayed for His coming.

All Jesus followers should seek the King humbly and earnestly.

"...worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day."

- Anna's life is an example of what it means to seek King Jesus humbly and earnestly. She did this by worshiping God through fasting and prayer. Anna fasted and prayed every day, revealing a heart that earnestly desired to see the coming King.
- All of God's people should seek the King in this way. They should serve God humbly and sacrificially as they set their hearts to earnestly desiring the return of King Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 2:22-38

Anna's Earnest Seeking

Opening Illustration:

Bring in several small objects and hide them in the room. Tell the children what you have hidden in the room and have them hunt for it. When they find it, remind them that God's people seek Him and desire to see Him come.

BIG IDEA: WE SEEK THE KING EARNESTLY EVERY DAY.¹**God's people trust His Word.**

- Anna trusted God.
- She took Him at His Word and believed that He would keep His promise. She whole-heartedly trusted that God would send the King.
- Anna showed that she loved and trusted God by serving in the temple.
- All of God's people should believe Him and trust His promises.
- God's people trust that God is going to do what He says and that His promises will be fulfilled.



Write the word “earnest” on the board. Ask the children to define the word and then help them understand it better by looking it up on a dictionary app or googling it. Talk with them about what it looks like to earnestly seek something. Remind them that God's people should earnestly seek the King.

God's people desire to see the King come.

- Anna wanted to see the coming King. She spent her time serving in the temple and praying for the King to come.
- God's people have a desire to know the King and to see the King come.
- God's people should long for the King's return because He is the ruler of their hearts and lives.
- Our hearts should be like Anna's and we should desire to see the King come.

God's people live knowing the King is coming.

- Anna lived in a way that showed that she knew the King was coming.
- She looked for the King and really wanted to see Him before she died.
- God's people live believing and knowing that the King is coming. They live expecting His arrival.
- They are as sure of His coming as they are that the sun will rise and set each day or that there will be air for their lungs.

Whom should we look for and want to see? (We should look for the King and want to see Him come back.)

1. Luke 12:36: God's people should live as if the King is returning any day. Anna lived her life this way.

BIG IDEA: WE SEEK THE KING THROUGH SACRIFICIAL WORSHIP.²**Worship requires sacrifice.**

- We all worship or focus on something or someone we love very much.
- We place a high value on that thing or person.
- We are all made to worship God.
- Anna's worship sets an example for the way that we should worship.
- She sacrificed our own dreams and aspirations to serve God in the temple and to worship Him.
- Worshiping God means we will have to give up things to worship Him.



Divide the children into small groups or pairs. Ask the children to discuss some of the things they find it hard to sacrifice. Allow the groups to share their responses and then discuss with them what it looks like to worship sacrificially.

God's people sacrifice to know Him.

- Anna was glad to give up things for the King.
- She was happy to spend the rest of her life serving God instead of living for herself.
- God's people will sacrifice their time, money, and pleasure in order to seek God.
- God's people want to be near Him and want to see Him.

God's people worship sacrificially.

- God's people give up things to worship Him.
- They sacrifice for Him and want to be near Him.
- People will devote their entire lives to serving God and living for the coming King because they love God and He loves them.
- Worshiping sacrificially is a characteristic of God's people because they have experienced His great sacrifice on their behalf firsthand.

What can we give up to worship God? (We can give up some of our toys, or playing all of the time in order to show God we love Him.)

2. Romans 12:1-2: God's people present their entire lives as a sacrifice to God in order to worship Him.

BIG IDEA: WE SEEK THE KING THROUGH PRAYER AND FASTING.³**God's people seek Him through prayer.**

- Prayer is the way that God's people talk to God. It is the means by which God's people connect with God and grow in their relationship with Him.
- Prayer is the way God's people seek Him and seek to grow closer to Him.
- Prayer is a time of sharing our thoughts and feelings with God and to praise Him as we grow in our knowledge and understanding of Him.
- Anna set the example of seeking God through prayer. She prayed day and night, seeking to know and see the King.



Help the children understand how to pray to seek God by leading them in a prayer. Pray with them to know God and to desire to see the King's coming. Remind them that we talk to God by praying and prayer helps us know Him.

God's people seek Him through fasting.

- Anna fasted daily. She gave up food in order to seek the King.
- God's people show Him how much they want to see Him and the King. They give up things to show Him how much they believe Him and want to see Him.
- By seeking the King through fasting, His people are declaring they desire to know Him and to see His will done on earth as it is in heaven.

God's people seek the King's return through prayer and fasting.

- Anna really wanted to see the King come because she knew He would save the world.
- She sought this through prayer and fasting.
- God's people today seek the return of the King through prayer and fasting.
- Believers desire to see Jesus return to gather His people together to live with Him forever.

How can we know God through prayer? (When we pray and fast, we are turning our hearts and our minds to God and it helps us learn about Him and grow in our understanding of Him.)

3. Luke 2:36-38: Anna worshiped God and sought the King through prayer and fasting day and night.

HOOKS

**Seek And Find**

Play a game where the children sit in a circle with their eyes closed. Before they close their eyes, tell them that one person will have a small item hidden and the rest have to guess which child has the hidden item. When everyone closes their eyes, place an item in the palm of one child and close their hand over it. Next, have the children open their eyes and take turns guessing who has the hidden item. Play several times and then talk with them about how God's people should seek the King like Anna sought Him. Remind them that God's people should have an earnest desire to see the King.

**More Than Anything**

Play a game in which the children complete the following statement: More than anything, I... Help them think of ways to complete the statement by giving them examples, such as "More than anything, I love birthday cake." Once you play several times, talk with them about how God's people should seek the King and desire to see Him more than anything else in the world. Discuss with them how we grow our desire to see the King and ways that we can seek the King.

**A Prayer Of Seeking**

Help the children gather together and pray to see and know the King. Lead them in praying for a heart that seeks the King.