

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.

AN EARNEST DEVOTION

Help your child define the word “earnest” by using a dictionary app or googling the definition. Ask your child to gather some of his or her toys or special things that they would earnestly look for if those things were lost. Talk with your child about the importance of each item they hold dear. Remind them that God’s people should seek the King with earnest. We should greatly desire to see Him and to do His will.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

Luke 2:22-38.

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

Many of God’s people anticipated and longed for the coming King, or Messiah. They all heard the prophecies and stories of God’s promise of salvation and they had waited a long time to see Him. Anna was an especially devoted follower of God. After her husband passed away, she devoted her life to serving God in the temple. She earnestly desired to see the coming King. She so longed for the King that she fasted and prayed every day for His coming. She humbled herself in order to serve God in the temple and she worshiped Him sacrificially, choosing not to remarry and have a family. She devoted her entire being to waiting for the King and serving God. She obeyed His Word and prayed for the King’s coming. God rewarded Anna’s devotion and earnest seeking by allowing her to see the King. When Joseph and Mary brought Jesus into the temple, Anna got to see firsthand God’s promise of salvation fulfilled through Jesus. God’s people everywhere should seek the King like Anna did. They should worship Him sacrificially and earnestly desire His coming.

TALK ABOUT IT: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- How did Anna show she was earnest in her seeking of the King? (Anna devoted her life to temple service and fasted and prayed every day for the King’s coming.)
- How should God’s people seek the King today? (His people should seek Him through sacrificial worship and with earnest hearts.)



As a family, memorize Luke 2:36-37 by creating a matching game from the verse. Write the words of the verse twice on index cards. Take turns making matches from the verses and saying it out loud together.



Create a Christmas scavenger hunt for your child. Help your child hunt for the things on the scavenger list. After all the things are found, talk with your child about how God’s people should seek the King earnestly. We should earnestly desire to know Him and to see Him.



Spend time as a family talking about the things we search for or seek out, such as toys to play with, special foods, and friends. Talk with your child about how Anna sought the coming King. She really wanted to see Him and lived her life seeking Him. Remind them that we should live our lives seeking God and desiring to see the King.



As a family spend time praying together. As you pray, ask God to help each of you worship Him sacrificially.