

WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

2 WIDOWS: ANNA & THE WIDOW OF NAIN

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

LESSON 4

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Mary, Mother of Jesus** was helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read Luke 2:36-38

2. How do **V36-37a** describe Anna?
3. What is the definition of "prophet" in the dictionary?
4. a) In what ways did Anna purpose to live her life according to **V37b**?

b) From all the details about Anna in **V36-37**, what stands out most to you?
5. How do you define worship, and what are some different ways worship is expressed?
6. It was said of Anna that "she worshiped night and day." Describe what that might look like in a modern day Anna.
7. Anna had the discipline of fasting and praying. When have you seen or experienced these powerful disciplines?

8. Read **V25-35** for context. What purpose did God have for Anna in **V38**?

9. Comment on how Anna's lifelong habits aided God's purposes for her.

10. a) In what area of your life are you waiting for God's purposes to unfold?

b) What will you commit to do while you wait?

11. a) What could have been the "half-empty" story of Anna's life?

b) How does her life inspire you, especially for those who are widowed or alone?

SECTION II: Read Luke 7:11-17

12. a) Summarize what was happening in **V11-12**.

b) Get into the shoes of the widow of Nain, and comment on the myriad emotions she might have been feeling.

13. a) What words would you use to describe Jesus' reaction to the widow in **V13**?

b) Based on "His heart went out to her," write a truth that you learn about Jesus.

14. a) In your own words, what did the Nain widow see Jesus do in **V14-15**?

14. b) What seemingly dead situation has you praying for Jesus' resurrection touch?
15. When the crowd saw what Jesus did in the widow's crisis, what was their response according to **V16**?
16. a) **John 11** records another story of resurrection (Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead). What was the purpose given in **John 11:4** and **40**?
- b) What was the outcome in both of these resurrections? (See **Luke 7:17** and **John 11:45**.)
17. As you look at these two widows' stories laced with suffering, how do they encourage you in your own trials?
18. Write a prayer on this week's lesson.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. No doubt these widows' lives unfolded differently than they had planned. How do the following verses instruct us as we make "our plans"?
- Proverbs 19:21** _____
- James 4:13-15** _____
2. a) According to **Philippians 3:10**, what are the two main ways to know Christ and become like Him?
- b) How did you see these two ways exemplified in the two widows?
3. As we've learned, these two widows had their dose of suffering. What more do you learn about suffering in **1 Peter 4:12-13**?

4. Suggested Memory Verse: **Philippians 3:10**

