

.....
"If destruction fails to entangle us, distraction will do its best. "

[Beth Moore]

ENGAGE & CONNECT ||

The lady in today's discussion is "goals"--someone we could all look up to for who we want to be when we're a hundred years old. What kind of person do you want to be at age 100?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER ||

"Lord, give us the patience, endurance, stamina, and faith to wait for You and devote ourselves to keep asking for more of You, keep seeking Your face, and keep knocking at Your door.

"He said to him, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'"

[Matthew 22:37]

BIG IDEA ||

Anna chose the devotion of concentration, so she consecrated her life to the Lord.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION ||

1. In the sermon we heard, *"Test your attention."* What do you think about right before sleep? What is your first thought in the morning?

Luke 2:36-38

2. How did Anna spend her life? How is your life AS the temple of God different from Anna's life IN the temple of God?
3. What things pull your concentration and focus away from God? What things eat up your attention and time and make it hard to pray or read scripture?
4. Why do those things have so much power over you?
5. Anna was able to devote all her life to one thing. If there was one thing that really mattered that you could devote your life to, what is it?
6. Have you been asking for something in prayer for a long time? How long have you been waiting for Jesus like Anna did?
7. What is something you've given your attention and focus to that has slowly changed you over time?

8. What about yourself would you like God to transform? What do you need to focus on so you don't miss it?
9. How can you live a set-apart-for-God life and also do normal things like dishes and grocery shopping?
10. What gets your energy that needs less of it?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE ||

Anna practiced **alert availability**.

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) How can you linger on, look at, and listen to Jesus this week? 2) What teaching of Jesus can you meditate on and really dig into over and over again?

Step of Faith Ideas

1. Let's work toward being a hundred years old and still living lives of purpose!
2. What lesser things steal worship that belongs to God? Let's get idols away from our faces this week so we can see God more clearly.

PRAYER FOCUS || **Leader Note** *Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. Try the prayer activity below or pray for one another's personal requests!*

No Rivals to God

God deserves our best attention, and that takes intentional focus and slowly building a life devoted to Jesus, His teaching, and prayer.

- Pray for a specific person every time you do an everyday task, like brushing your teeth.
- Add another prayer to another task each day this week, so you slowly build the habit.
- Make one of your "everyday task prayers" be what someone else in the group has been asking for. We can all be praying for each other's requests!
- Close your time by reading this prayer together:
 - *"Lord, burden our hearts for the needs of those around us. Fill us with desire for more of Your presence as we seek You throughout this week. Reveal what needs to go and what needs to begin for us to live set apart for You. We aren't waiting for the new year—we need more of You now."*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Luke 1-9 Summary Video](#)
This video covers the birth of Christ and His early life.