

December 29th

Mary and Joseph are at the temple, completing the required rituals so they can finally return home.

But God interrupts their plans to remind them who He is and who their Child is. So He has had Simeon speak to them, reminding them of the great things this Child will do and the great hope this Child will bring.

And God is not done. He has one more person for them to meet.

Luke 2:36-38 – ³⁶ Now there was one, _____, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷ and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but _____ God with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave _____ to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for _____ in Jerusalem.

84 years Anna has walked the earth.

84 years Anna has been faithful to God.

84 years Anna has been a servant of God.

And now Anna has met the promised Child.

And as long as God allows her breath, she will continue to proclaim His goodness.

And now the time has FINALLY come for Mary and Joseph. The day they have waited over a month for.

Luke 2:39 – So when they had performed all things according to the _____ of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, _____.

They can finally go home.

They can finally take their Son home to meet His grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

They can finally get settled as a newly married couple and start their married life.

And they can finally enjoy their Son on familiar ground.

Never for a moment did they forget who He really is.

And they probably marveled daily at Him.

Luke 2:40 – And the Child grew and became _____ in spirit, filled with _____; and the _____ of God was upon Him.

Going Deeper:

1. *What does 1 Timothy 5:5 say about widows?*

2. *What does Lamentations 3:25 say about people like Simeon and Anna?*

3. *How do you think Mary and Joseph felt at finally getting to go home?*

4. *Anna is mentioned as serving God continually. How do you serve God? How do you share your money, your time, and your wisdom?*

5. *What does it mean to have God's grace upon us?*

6. *How often do you speak of God to others? What do say most about Him?*
