



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

“Faithful and Faith-Filled”

Preached by Pete Greig

July 13th 2025

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

In this sermon, Pete Greig, founder of 24/7 Prayer, speaks about faithfulness and being faith-filled using the biblical story of Simeon and Anna from Luke 2:25-40. He highlights how these elderly individuals remained not only faithful in their decades of waiting for the Messiah but also maintained an expectant faith that allowed them to recognize Jesus when he was presented at the temple. Pete encourages the congregation during a time of transition at New Life Church, pointing to signs of spiritual awakening among younger generations worldwide as evidence that God is answering prayers, even when the answers don't look exactly as expected.

Key Passage | Luke 2:25-40

Summary - This passage tells the story of Simeon and Anna at the temple in Jerusalem. Simeon was a righteous and devout man who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before seeing the Messiah. When Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple for the customary purification rites, Simeon took Jesus in his arms, praised God, and declared that he had seen God's salvation—a light for the Gentiles and glory for Israel. He also prophesied to Mary that Jesus would cause the rising and falling of many in Israel and that a "sword" would pierce her own soul.

Also present was Anna, a prophetess and elderly widow who spent all her time in the temple worshiping. Upon seeing Jesus, she gave thanks to God and spoke about Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus then returned to Nazareth, and the child grew strong, filled with wisdom, and God's grace was upon Him.

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father,

as we gather to discuss Your Word, we invite Your presence among us. Thank you for the examples of faithfulness we see in Simeon and Anna. Open our hearts to receive what You want to teach us today about being both faithful and faith-filled. Help us to recognize Your work even when it doesn't match

our expectations. May our discussion draw us closer to You and to one another, and may we leave with renewed hope and expectancy. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

Share about a time when you had to wait a long time for something you really wanted. How did you feel during the waiting period, and how did you feel when you finally received it?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. Pete Greig described the difference between being 'faithful' and being 'faith-filled.' How would you explain this distinction in your own words, and where do you see yourself on this spectrum?
2. The sermon mentioned that sometimes God's answers to our prayers don't look like what we expected. Can you share an example from your own life when God answered prayer in an unexpected way?
3. Pete shared statistics about spiritual awakening among younger generations. What opportunities do you see for reaching out to younger people in your sphere of influence?

4. Simeon and Anna were able to recognize Jesus even as a baby because they were attentive to the Spirit. How can we develop greater spiritual attentiveness in our daily lives?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life

This week, take time to reflect on one area of your life where you've been faithful in prayer but may have lost your sense of joy or expectancy. Perhaps you've been waiting a long time for an answer, and though you haven't stopped praying, your hope has begun to fade. Acknowledge this honestly before God, and commit to praying with renewed faith—actively looking for signs of how He may be working, even if it's not in the way you expected.

Each day, ask God to open your spiritual eyes and renew your trust in His timing. Pay attention to small moments—encouraging words, unexpected opportunities, or inner peace—that may be part of His answer. Keep a journal of anything that stands out, and be prepared to share how this practice has impacted your faith. Your experience could be a powerful encouragement to others who are also learning to wait on God.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

Which of these points will you carry with you this week?

- There's a difference between being faithful (persevering) and being faith-filled (maintaining expectancy and joy).
- God's answers to our prayers often don't look like what we expected, but we need spiritual eyes to recognize them.
- Our prayers may be accomplishing far more than we realize - impacting not just individuals but generations and nations.
- Times of transition are opportunities for God to speak in new ways and for us to set new trajectories.
- There are significant signs of spiritual awakening among younger generations worldwide that we should be attentive to and ready to engage with.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close you time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord, thank You for the examples of Anna and Simeon who remained both faithful and faith-filled despite years of waiting. Forgive us for the times we've continued in faithfulness but lost our expectancy and joy. Open the eyes of our hearts to see what You're doing, even when it doesn't match our expectations. Help us to be positioned correctly, with both the right direction and momentum, to catch the wave of Your Spirit in this generation. Renew our dreams, restore our joy, and fill us with fresh faith as we go from here. May we

be people who not only persevere in prayer but who also recognize and celebrate Your answers when they come. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

Verses for Further Study

- **Romans 12:12 (NIV)** | *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."*
- **Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)** | *"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."*
- **Habakkuk 1:5 (NIV)** | *"Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told."*