

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 11^h October 2015

**HEROINES OF THE FAITH – ANNA & THE SYRO-PHOENICIAN WOMAN
(Commitment to personal spiritual growth)**

As We Gather

This week we read how two very different women encountered Jesus – Anna, an aged Jewish prophetess, and a Greek /Gentile mother of a sick child.

Reading Scripture **LUKE 2 : 36 – 38** **MARK 7 : 24 - 30**

Thinking together

After Anna’s husband died she moved from her home and remained in the temple serving God through fasting and prayer [Luke 2:36-38]. Her ministry was one of quiet watchfulness and faithful expectation as she waited the coming of Messiah [Luke 2:36].

We are told she was a prophetess, having the special gift of declaring and interpreting God’s message [Luke 2:37 and 1 Timothy 5:5].

Anna never ceased to hope, worship and pray as she waited patiently for the coming of Messiah

How can we develop Anna’s quality of steadfastness? Discuss

**What part does worship – private and corporate – play in our spiritual development?
Discuss**

How does witnessing to the Good News help us to grow spiritually? Discuss

When Jesus took His disciples into Gentile territory [Mark 7:24-30], His ministry did not cease, and Mark records a number of His miraculous healings.

The Syro-Phoenician woman overcame a number of obstacles in order to ask Jesus to heal her daughter

What obstacles did the woman have to overcome in order to meet with Jesus? Discuss

What obstacles do you have to overcome in order to meet daily with Jesus? Discuss

Even though she had only heard about Jesus and His ministry, when face- to- face with Him, the woman’s faith enabled her to use His response to her as the basis for her plea for His help [Mark 7:27-28]

- She knew and accepted her place

Do you know and accept your place in God’s / Jesus’ plan for your life? Discuss

- She believed His word

Do you believe Jesus’ word for / to you? Discuss

- She persisted in her plea

Are you persistent in the spiritual disciplines? Discuss

In Closing

No-one can be neutral about Jesus. He is either joyfully accepted or He is rejected.

Great faith takes God at His word and will not let go - even in the face of trouble.

PRAYER

Eternal Father, the prophets announced your will, and in Jesus your word became flesh. Speak to us in our time, that like children we may wonder at your works, trust your provision, and live in the joy of your grace through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen