



FACES OF OUR FAITH

LEARNING FROM BOLD + UNTOLD STORIES

STUDY JOURNAL

OCTOBER 26 SERMON

ANNA



sanctifiedart.org

There are many heroes of the faith, people we admire and wish to be. However, there are even more ordinary people of faith—those doing what they can with what they have to make a difference. We’ve selected 16 bold stories of those often overlooked in our biblical narratives. Using visual art and prompts for reflection, we hope to dig deep into the worlds of these characters, entering their stories with curiosity and openness to what they might teach us.

We have arranged the stories so that they have a narrative arc beginning with Genesis and the Hebrew stories, moving to the minor characters in the backdrop of Jesus’ birth and death, and concluding with the apostles and Christians who emerged in the years after the resurrection. We invite you to complete this journal at the pace and order that suits you. You may wish to ponder the reflections and prompts individually or with others. We have designed this journal so that it might be used as a personal devotional or as the curriculum for a group study series.

As we journey with these characters, may they remind us that we all play a role in shaping God’s story of redemption and grace. May they awaken us to the faces of our faith in our world today. May they encourage us to know that no action is ever too small to make a difference.

Artfully yours,

The Sanctified Art Creative Team

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As you journey with the biblical characters in this series, we invite you to name the faces of your own faith and reflect on how they have impacted you. You may wish to name friends, family members, mentors, pastors, public figures, strangers—consider anyone and everyone who has made a lasting impact on your faith.

face of my faith:

impact_____

face of my faith:

impact_____



Anna the Prophetess |Lisle Gwynn Garrity



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read LUKE 2:21-38

from the artist | LISLE GWYNN GARRITY

Perhaps being at the end of her life helped her to see the world with eyes sharpened for the holy. Perhaps living most of her years as a widow kept her hiding in the shadows, to keep from taking up too much space, when Simeon approached first to announce praise and prophecies on behalf of the newborn child. Perhaps being a prophet made her both patient and persistent, trusting that the right moment to share her wisdom would, indeed, come.

The moment came, for there was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel. Luke could have easily left Anna out of the story. But she leans in—from the margins, from the shadows, from the edges of the scene to approach her newborn king.

Perhaps Luke knew that those on the outside seemed to have the nearest access to Jesus. Those on the margins saw what others could not yet see. They knew without really knowing, because it was the kind of knowledge that shifts the chemistry of your heart.

She saw and she knew, so she lived out her days giving thanks for the promise of a world made new.

When drawing this image, I referenced photographs of Mother Teresa because I imagine her, like Anna a few centuries before, having eyes for the divine and devoting her entire life to pointing it out for others.



look

Take a few moments to gaze upon the artwork. Sit still in quiet meditation as you observe the visual qualities of what you see: color, line, texture, movement, shape, form. Now take a deeper look. What parts of the image are your eyes most drawn to? What parts of the image did you overlook? Now engage your imagination. What story do you give to the figure?

reflect

- Why do you think Luke included the accounts of Simeon and Anna meeting the newborn Christ? Why were these details important enough to include when telling how Mary and Joseph presented Jesus at the Temple?
- What do you think prepared Anna to recognize the Messiah? What circumstances and practices led her to this holy encounter?
- The artist names Mother Teresa as someone with eyes for the divine. Can you name others who have spent their lives pointing to where God shows up in the world?



 write

Where do you see the holy in everyday life? In the space below, make a list of all the places or moments when the divine breaks through.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

 pray

May I have eyes for the divine and devote my life to pointing it out for others. Amen.



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