

United in Prayer: Bible reflection

As Mothers' Union members we believe in the benefits of being united together in prayer. However, we are often aware of our shortcomings as we pray together for the needs of others. We can be reassured that God understands our weaknesses – *Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!* – and takes note of our prayers, despite our doubts.

Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. ¹³ Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. ¹⁴ When she recognised Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, 'Peter is at the door!' ¹⁵ 'You're out of your mind,' they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, 'It must be his angel.' ¹⁶ But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. ¹⁷ Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison.

Acts 12:5, 13-17

Take a moment to reflect on this passage, and then consider together the following:

This passage illustrates the tension between faith and doubt when we pray together. What does it show of God's attitude to our prayers, despite our little faith?

Reflect on the benefits of uniting together in prayer, as Mothers' Union members. Consider ways to facilitate this at local and wider level; in particular, with your link dioceses.

Loving Lord,
we thank you for the joy
of coming together into your presence;
to petition and plead
in unity and faith.
**In unity and faith
we bring our prayers to God.**

We thank you for the joy
of finding our numbers are swelled
by the company of the Holy Spirit,
who shows us how to pray
and adds his prayers to ours.
**Through the prompting of the Spirit
we bring our prayers to God. Amen**