

AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.

Welcome To A.S.K. - Saint Matthew AME Church Intergenerational Women's Ministry
Study of Named and Unnamed Women In the Bible
The Woman Who Sinned Yet Loved Much - 27 September 2025



This is the day, Saturday, 25 October 2025, that the Lord has made and we as women, sisters, ladies young and younger honor Him with this time to explore how being

Spiritually Gifted

Personable

Equipped

Compassionate

Integral

Available

Loving

contributes to our God given purpose to minister to all His children. The objective is explore named and unnamed women in in the Bible to gain awareness, increase communication skills, and build our knowledge to match gifts and strengths with appropriate ministry - service - positions at home, work, church, in the community!



Stephanie Wilson is the 2nd African American woman to travel into space. She has spoken openly about her faith as a guiding force in her life and career since her teenage years. During her spaceflights she brings a small Bible with her. She shared that her faith provides perspective on the vastness of the universe and an appreciation for God's love. She recalled a time on her second spaceflight when her faith was tested during a risky spacewalk to repair a solar array. Wilson said the moment required her to trust in God's plan, acknowledging that He was in control even in uncertain situations. Wilson found her purpose in life through her work as an astronaut and trusts in God for protection. This faith has given her confidence in all that she does.

AWARENESS

From "All Women of the Bible" by Herbert Lockyer

Rhoda: The Woman Who Was Called Mad

Acts 12:1-19; Book Pages 140-142

Peter knocked at the outer entrance and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door.!"

Acts 12:13-14 (NIV)

Rhoda's Name Means

- Her name means "Rose".
- Spiritually, the rose is a symbol of love, passion, and beauty, in Greek it is often associated with the goddess [Aphrodite](#). This can symbolize a love that is active, beautiful, and vibrant. (Source: AI)
- She was foreign born, name is Greek and was a domestic worker for Mary the mother of Mark.
- Peter knocked – Rhoda was shocked upon hearing and recognizing his voice – the "praying" saints mocked her by calling her "Manias" meaning "a mad woman".



Rhoda Heard The Knock

- Mary of Jerusalem was a rich widow with a conspicuous house placed at the service of the Lord.
- In her house there was fellowship, reading and exposition of the Word, but also praying for afflicted saints.
- On this particular night, on their knees in night long intercession (NOTE: A prayer of intercession is a prayer offered on behalf of others, acting as a plea or mediator for their needs. It involves bringing the concerns of others—such as family, friends, or global issues—before God to seek His intervention, guidance, and blessing.).
- In their collective prayer they concentrated on the deliverance of a precious life, namely Peter their leader. If their Shepherd was smitten, what could the sheep do? (NOTE: Collective prayer is the practice of multiple people praying together, which is considered a powerful way to foster unity, seek spiritual guidance, and experience divine presence and

action. In many faiths, it is seen as complementing private prayer and strengthening faith through shared worship, intercession, and support. Collective brings “we, our, us” and not “me, my, mine”. Best example is when the Disciples asked Jesus in to “teach them to pray” and our Lord started with “Our Father...”; see Matthew 6:9-13)

- As the church in Mary's house earnestly petitioned the Lord, their prayers were heard. (NOTE: Petitioning prayer, or supplication, is a form of prayer where one humbly asks God to meet a need, either for oneself or for others. It involves clearly stating a request while acknowledging one's dependence on God, expressing gratitude, and ultimately submitting to God's will. To pray this way effectively, one should be specific, have faith, and consider making the petition a dialogue with God, grounded in scripture and accompanied by thankfulness. (See Mark 11:24; Philippians 4:6)
- Peter, who had escaped from prison (see Acts 12:6-12, knew where the saints would be together praying so he went there and knocked and Rhoda recognizing his voice in her excitement forgot to open the door.
- Peter continued to knock until the door was opened, not by angelic hands as was the case at the prison, but by unbelieving human hands.

Rhoda Was Shocked

- Peter not only knocked, but he had to have spoken for it is said “she knew his voice” in Acts 12:14.
- NOTE: However, the writer says, “But when Rhoda asked, ‘Who is knocking?’ and received the muffled reply, ‘It is Peter, open quickly’, and she should have opened the gate before opening her mouth to others.” There is no direct biblical reference to her asking the question and Peter replying.
- We should be able to understand why Rhoda did not immediately open the door not being clear about who was on the other side, who would be the next to join the army of martyrs. “James, the brother of John, (was) put to death by sword” (Acts 12:2) and Peter imprisoned until after Passover.
- We should also understand her stunned excitement – their prayers had been answered. But as a maid she neglected her duty to open the door for by “glad tidings” she was momentarily thoughtless.

Rhoda's Character

- The Apostle Luke, “the beloved Physician”, who wrote Acts, noted in this maidservant “her unbounded joy”.
- She had a state of consciousness when realizing the good news that the prayers for Peter overpowered her presence of mind.

- She manifested exuberance upon forgetting herself and her duty and running to tell the intercessors to pray no more for Peter was at the gate.
- Rhoda continued to share the good news even though she was scorned; her young heart believed in God and in the power of prayer and knowing definitely prayer had been answered.
- Even though Rhoda was a maid, who was available to Mary at any time, she would not allow the sarcastic criticism of the congregation subdue her. She wore the red rose of courage.

Rhoda Was Mocked By The Saints

- When Rhoda heard the knocking at the door, while she was also most likely praying, she instinctively went to answer, leaving the others to continue in prayer.
- One writer asked, "how can we not smile and feel joy at her reaction? She realized immediately that God has answered their prayers and in her excitement she couldn't wait to share the good news.
- Though we may make fun at her silliness of leaving Peter outside, Rhoda's faith is to be commended.
- God honored Rhoda by including her name in the Bible to be forever regarded as an example of FAITH! For the names of the other individuals gathered to pray, then did not believe, are not recorded.
- They called her mad! They tested her faith saying, "it must be an angel" (Acts 12:13) yet when they opened the door finally and saw Peter and heard His instructions, one would hope maidservant Rhoda, with her "mustard seed faith", was thought of differently from the memorable day on! Glory to God!!!

IN FAITH!



Stephanie Wilson is the 2nd African American woman to travel into space. She has spoken openly about her faith as a guiding force in her life and career since her teenage years. During her spaceflights she brings a small Bible with her. She shared that her faith provides perspective on the vastness of the universe and an appreciation for God's love. She recalled a time on her second spaceflight when her faith was tested during a risky spacewalk to repair a solar array. Wilson said the moment required her to trust in God's plan, acknowledging that He was in control even in uncertain situations. Wilson found her purpose in life through her work as an astronaut and trusts in God for protection. This faith has given her confidence in all that she does.



SKILLS

Communication Talking Point 35: Active Listening In Faith

Key Words: Christians¹; Collective Prayer; Courage; Doubt; Faith;
Gathering; Intersession; Petition
Values: Courage; Faith; Love

What Can We Learn From Rhonda

When you pray, do you expect God to answer? How do you respond to answered prayer? Do you ever pray for things that seem impossible? Do you pray more for self or for others? Let us first agree that God is listening (Mark 11:24), His ear is inclined (Psalm 116:2), He sent His only begotten Son (John 3:16) so that we “can pray for anything and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours.” (Mark 11:24, NIV).

Our Lord is a good listener, an “Active Listener” and the biblical foundation, or this theme can be found in James 1:19 which says (NIV), “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry”. With edits here is an article by **David Mathis** (Senior Teacher, Desiring God) to help us strengthen, enhance, develop, challenge ourselves to be stronger prayer warriors, prayer intercessors, prayer partners, conversationist with God for self but primarily for others for greater evangelism and discipleship.

Mathis says, listening is one of the easiest things you’ll ever do, and one of the hardest. In a sense, listening is easy — or *hearing* is easy. It doesn’t demand the initiative and energy required in speaking. That’s why “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” ([Romans 10:17](#)). The point is that hearing is easy, and **faith is not an expression of our activity, but our receiving the activity of another**. It is “**hearing with faith**” ([Galatians 3:2, 5](#)) that accents the achievements of Christ and thus is the channel of grace that starts and sustains the Christian life.

¹ In Acts 7, Barnabas and Saul (Paul) stayed a year in Antioch. They began to speak and convert the Greeks. This is the first time the Disciples were called Christian.

But despite this ease — or perhaps precisely because of it — we often fight against it. In our sin, we'd rather trust in ourselves than another, amass our own righteousness than receive another's, speak our thoughts than listen to someone else. True, sustained, active listening is a great act of faith, and a great [means of grace](#), both for ourselves and for others [in the fellowship](#).

Lessons in Good, Active Listening

The charter text for Christian listening might be [James 1:19](#): "Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." It's simple enough in principle, and nearly impossible to live. Too often we are slow to hear, quick to speak, and quick to anger. So, learning to listen won't happen overnight. It requires discipline, effort, and intentionality.

1. Good, active listening requires patience... Our work for Kingdom

building requires us to listen with both your ears (turn up the volume on the hearing aid) and listen with patience, waiting for your chance to speak. No matter how long you've known, lived, worked with someone, assumptions about what they may say in a situation and you having your script (ready response) should be avoided. Take the time to listen, to really hear because you just might learn something. "Unfortunately, many of us are too preoccupied with ourselves when we listen. Instead of concentrating on what is being said, we are busy either deciding what to say in response or mentally rejecting the other person's point of view...Poor listening diminishes another person, while good listening invites them to exist and matter." Good listening = quieting the cell phone, undivided attention, body language says relaxed and when its time for you to speak it is Spirit led, "Spirit powered".

2. Good, active listening is an act of love...Are you that sister or brother who cannot wait to speak? You've been half listening, on a device but checking in for your time? What good listening embraces, poor listening rejects. Poor listening diminishes the other person (have you ever felt unheard?) One writer put it this way, "Just as love to God begins with listening to his Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them." Good listening goes hand in hand with the mind-set of Christ ([Philippians 2:5](#)). It flows from a humble heart that counts others more significant than ourselves ([Philippians 2:3](#)). It looks not only to its own interests, but also the interests of others ([Philippians 2:4](#)). It is patient and kind ([1 Corinthians 13:4](#)). "Can you hear me now?"

3. **Good, active listening asks perceptive questions...** The Word of God in the Book of Proverbs says it is the fool who “takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion” ([Proverbs 18:2](#)), and thus “gives an answer before he hears” ([Proverbs 18:13](#)). “The purpose in a man’s heart is like deep water,” says [Proverbs 20:5](#), “but a man of understanding will draw it out.” Good listening asks perceptive, open-ended questions (questions that cannot be answered with a simple "yes" or "no" and instead encourage a more detailed, thoughtful response.) It watches carefully for nonverbal communication, but doesn’t interrogate and pry into details the speaker doesn’t want to share, but meekly draws them out and helps point the speaker to fresh perspectives through careful, but genuine, questions.
4. **Good, active listening is ministry...** According to Bonhoeffer, there are many times when “listening can be a greater service than speaking.” God wants more of the Christian than just our good listening, but not less. There will be days when the most important ministry we do is square our shoulders to some hurting person, uncross our arms, lean forward, make eye contact, and hear their pain all the way to the bottom. Sometimes releasing these emotions is all that is needed to solve the problem. The speaker may neither want nor expect us to say anything in response. One counselor says good listening is: “put more emphasis on affirmation than on answers. . . . [M]any times God simply wants to use me, you, us as a channel of His affirming love as we listen with compassion and understanding.” Echoes Bonhoeffer, “Often a person can be helped merely by having someone who will listen to [them] seriously.” At times what our neighbor needs most is for someone else to know.
5. **Good, active listening prepares us to speak well...** “The best ministry you might do today is to listen to someone’s pain all the way to the bottom.” Sometimes good listening is good ministry and when it’s time, or if it becomes time to speak, the Holy Spirit will give you words of grace and love. As Bonhoeffer writes, “We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God.” While the fool “gives an answer before he hears” ([Proverbs 18:13](#)), the wise person tries to resist defensiveness, and to listen from a nonjudgmental stance, training [her or his self] not to formulate

opinions or responses until the full update is on the table and the whole story has been heard.

6. Good, active listening reflects our relationship with God...Our inability to listen well to others may be because we are afraid even though our God has said “be encouraged”, “fear not”, “I am with you always”. These feelings of “not worthy”, “inadequate”, “I don’t have the time, I’ve got my own stuff – the devil is busy in my life right now and I stand in the need of prayer” are not wrong, they just require us to put things in God’s perspective, trust God’s Word, walk/speak in faith and not die in your spiritual life. Good listening, active listening is a great means of grace in the dynamic of true Christian fellowship. Not only is it a channel through which God continues to pour his grace into our lives, but it’s also his way of using us as his means of grace in the lives of others. It may be one of the hardest things we learn to do, but we will find it worth every ounce of effort.

Sample Prayer

Lord God, we come to You today, lifting our prayers to You with expectation, knowing that however grim the situation may look, that You are in control. Holy Spirit help us to be better prayer warriors, prayer intercessors, active listeners to help and not harm, lift and not tear down, give hope where there is hopelessness.

Lord, I pray specifically today for those who are struggling, who are grieving, who are losing hope and fearing that the situation is past redemption. Please comfort them, wrapping Your arms around them, and remind them that You have not forgotten them. They are not forsaken. Lord, we ask today that if it is in Your will You do such mighty works that it defies all worldly wisdom. Give us the “astonishment” of Peter and the faith of Rhoda and allow us to be able to share with those around us the amazing things that You can do. We love You. We trust and believe in You, in Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

KNOWLEDGE



Dear _____(insert your name)

Today I engaged in a conversation about a woman named Rhoda who was labeled and considered “mad”, someone who had lost their mind. When I pause and reflect on the Lord’s process, I am hard pressed to remember God does, has, will use ordinary people like her, like me to bring others closer to Him through His Son Jesus. I embrace the values of courage, compassion, and faith! I know this reflection and study of a conscious believing female, even in her station in life, and what she was able to do to be imperative in my spiritual journey and testimony as an Ambassador of Christ.

Because I know “God is doing something wonderful in me!” I must be aware of tools Satan will use (fear, pride, doubt, insecurity, silence, arrogance, distrust, strife, and division for example) to keep me focused on the temporary and not on the eternal. Satan wants to deny and distract me from being loving, friendly, welcoming, helpful, warm, kindhearted, neighborly, or hospitable so that I am unable to serve the Lord in mind, spirit and heart. But God has a victorious plan for my life! Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most, my takeaway is ...

In Jesus Name,

AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.

Welcome To A.S.K. - Saint Matthew AME Church Intergenerational Women's Ministry
Study of Named and Unnamed Women In the Bible
The Woman Who Sinned Yet Loved Much - 27 September 2025



Awareness



Skills



Knowledge



Page |
13

EVERY 4TH SATURDAY

November 22, 2025

Widow of Nain: The Woman Whose Dead Son Came Back From the Grave
(Bible: Luke 7:11-18; Book: Pages 228-230)

December 20, 2025 – To Be Determined

Zoom Information

Meeting ID: 716275876 Passcode: 6781293

Phone Dial In Number: 929-205-6099, Meeting ID 716275876

* Resource/Study Books - The Bible and “All The Women of the Bible”
by Herbert Lockyer

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Suicide, Crisis, Mental Health Lifeline
988

BLESSINGS OVERFLOW