Mothers' Union Listening, Observing, Acting (MULOA)
Bible Reflection: 'The Woman Caught in Adultery'

Objective: Reflected on Mothers' Union's calling to the judged/ marginalised

Guiding questions:

1. *What situation was the woman in and what change did Jesus create in her life?*
2. *Where is the man that she was caught in adultery with? Where in our society are men and women treated differently?*
3. *How did Jesus treat the Pharisees? What might God be saying to us about judgemental attitudes?*
4. *What might God want to highlight about whom we touch, who we influence and the changes we can help to bring in people's lives/ society?*

John 8: 1-11 The Woman Caught in Adultery

Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, [2] but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. [3] As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

[4] "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery.[5] The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"

[6] They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. [7] They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" [8] Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

[9] When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman.[10] Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"

[11] "No, Lord," she said.

And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

1. **Reading**: Someone prays for us to be open to the passage with our mind, heart and emotions and for his Holy Spirit to guide us. Read the passage slowly and prayerfully out loud. Read the passage again individually in our heads. Have a time of silence for 1-2 minutes.
2. **Meditation**: Each person reflects on the passage. Imagine how the woman felt at each stage. Go for a walk or find a place to sit. Be attentive to words, phrases and ideas that come to mind. Use the questions to guide you as you listen to what God might be saying to us and to MU.
3. **Prayer:** Join up with your family group to share your thoughts and feelings and offer them to God in prayer. Ask God to show you how he wants MU to respond to and act on those.
4. **Contemplation:** Come together as a group to sit or stand together in silence for a few minutes in the presence of God, allowing time just to be with God.
5. **Living:** Share the thoughts and ideas that have emerged and what God might be saying to MU and calling us to do. Pray together that we would respond in action individually and together.