Study

Read the text twice

Look at the painting

Read the Painting Caption

Questions

| What jumps off the page at you? | FGP |
|---|--------|
| List the reasons Jesus gives why we should not worry or be afraid. | 3s/ FB |
| List the images and illustrations Jesus uses in the text. | 3s/ FB |
| Jesus continually points his hearers to God and His activity. How does reflecting | |

upon God's character and activity help us in our worries and fears? 3s/FB

The painting caption states, "There is a deliberate contrast between the birds and flowers and a familiar situation where it is all-but-impossible not to worry. There is no resolution to this dissonance: we are invited to embrace it as it is." How do we hold onto God's truth while also facing the reality of impossible circumstances? FGP/ GPS

What does our current attitude to our circumstances tell us about "where our treasure/ heart is" (v34)? 3s/FB

Study Key

3s / FB - Groups of 3 with feedback to whole group

FGP - Full Group

GPS - Larger groups of 6 (if desired)



The Project

The Gospel Sketchbook is a three-year project based in St George's Tron, Church, Glasgow, in which Artist in Residence Iain Campbell is painting 24 canvases from Luke's Gospel, one for each chapter.

Key to each painting is reflecting on the Biblical text and how it might apply to contemporary Glasgow.

The Study

The following Bible Study considers both the Biblical text and the painting on which it is based, encouraging participants to think about how to apply the Biblical text to their context. The study is designed to be used with *The Portrait Gospel*, a special edition of Luke's Gospel that features Our Last Supper on the cover, the first canvas painted as part of this project.

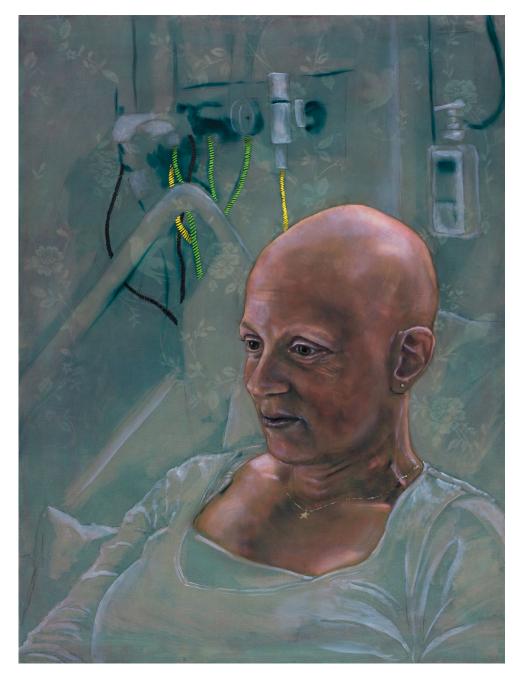
Conversations Bible Study

Each of the individual studies uses the Conversations style. Conversations is a method of Bible study developed by the Scottish Bible Society and the Contextual Bible Study Group. Conversations seeks to encourage people to actively engage with the Bible and apply it to life.

The questions are designed to stimulate conversation within groups where people may have varying backgrounds and knowledge of the Bible. You will notice a similar pattern of questions used throughout the studies. All of the questions are 'open' questions which don't presume an answer but instead invite people to reflect personally on the text. The first question is always, "What jumps off the page at you?" - an opportunity for people to begin to share their thoughts on a passage. Then there are 'listing' questions that encourage a closer reading of the text, 'theological' questions that seek to understand the meaning, and finally 'contextual' questions that begin to apply the text to life. We hope you find this a refreshing and stimulating way to study the Bible. More Bible study resources that utilise the

More Bible study resources that utilise the Conversations method can be found at: <u>scottishbiblesociety.org/equip</u>

Do Not Worry? Study 12 • Luke 12:22-34



Text: Luke 12:22-34 Page 57 of The Portrait Gospel

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.²⁴ Consider the ravens: they do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷ 'Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³² 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Painting Caption

It can be easy for phrases in the Bible to become so familiar that they almost lose their meaning. When Jesus tells us "do not worry" and asks us to be like the flowers of the fields and the birds of the air, the words can glide past us with the ease of a pre-printed greetings card.

In this painting, we see the images of birds and flowers in the background, contrasted with the Iain's friend, Fiona Morrison, going through her last chemotherapy session. There is a deliberate contrast between the birds and flowers and a familiar situation where it is all-but-impossible not to worry. There is no resolution to this dissonance: we are invited to embrace it as it is.