

## Study

Read the text twice

Look at the painting

Read the Painting Caption

## Questions

What jumps off the page at you?

*FGP*

List the characters in v5-8, and what the text says about them.

*3s/ FB*

What do you think the most important lesson on prayer is from this passage and why?

*3s/ FB*

How easy do we find it to keep “asking”, “seeking” and “knocking” in prayer?

*FGP/ GPS*

Do our prayers reflect what the text says about God in v11-13?

*FGP/GPS*

What needs to change in our prayer life, given what this passage teaches? *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 Conversations method can be found at: [scottishbiblesociety.org/equip](http://scottishbiblesociety.org/equip)

## A Knock at the Door

### Study 11 • Luke 11:5-13



**Text: Luke 11:5-13** Pages 51-52 of The Portrait Gospel

<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, “Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup> a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.” <sup>7</sup> And suppose the one inside answers, “Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.” <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

<sup>9</sup> So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup> ‘Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?

<sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

### Painting Caption

*“Lord, teach us to pray...”*

Many people know the Lord’s Prayer off by heart. Most people wouldn’t remember what comes directly after it in Luke chapter 11. Jesus expands on how the disciples should pray with this odd parable, with someone being persistent to the point of being a nuisance to his friend.

Persistence in prayer is a theme which comes up twice in Luke; here and in “The Persistent Widow”. It seems just as important to Jesus to get across this idea of persistence in prayer, as it is to get across the form of prayer.

Alex, who is in the painting, has been a regular in the Wild Olive Tree Café, and is known for his persistent nature. Although he doesn’t have much money himself, he insisted on gifting Iain £5 for Christmas 2018 inside a card. The money paid for the paintbrush this portrait was painted with.