

## Painting Caption

Casper is an artist who busks outside the church. Working with acrylic on canvas, he sells his paintings, trying to raise enough money for somewhere to sleep each night. Sometimes he is successful, sometimes he is not.

Repeatedly, in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus speaks about the rich and poor. Again and again he returns to the idea of economic justice in the Kingdom of God.

How seriously do we take Jesus words?

## Study

Read the text twice

Look at the painting

Read the Painting Caption

## Questions

What jumps off the page at you? *FGP*

List those who are blessed, and what they receive. *3s /FB*

List to whom Jesus says “woe” and what Jesus says to them. *3s/ FB*

Why does Jesus say there is blessing for those who are in need now, yet woe for those who have everything they need? *FGP/ GPS*

When do we feel most in need of God – when we are in need or when we are comfortable? How can we ensure we are living in dependence upon God every day? *FGP/GPS*

What difference should these words of Jesus make in our lives? *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)

## Blessed are the Poor

### Study 6 • Luke 6:17-26



## Text: Luke 6:17-26 Pages 31-32 of The Portrait Gospel

<sup>17</sup> He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, <sup>18</sup> who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, <sup>19</sup> and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

<sup>20</sup> Looking at his disciples, he said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> Blessed are you when people hate you,  
when they exclude you and insult you  
and reject your name as evil,  
because of the Son of Man.

<sup>23</sup> ‘Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> ‘But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have already received your comfort.

<sup>25</sup> Woe to you who are well fed now,  
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,  
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.