

Study

Read the text twice

Look at the painting

Read the Painting Caption

Questions

- What jumps off the page at you? *FGP*
- List what the text says about the crowds. *3s/ FB*
- List what the disciples do and say, and what Jesus says and does. *3s/ FB*
- Why do you think Jesus challenges the disciples to give the crowd something to eat? *FGP/ GPS*
- What areas of our need is God challenging us to do something about? *FGP/GPS*
- How can we ensure that we are relying on the power and purposes of God as we serve need in our community? *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

Feeding the Five Thousand

Study 9 • Luke 9:10-17



Text: Luke 9:10-17 Page 44 of The Portrait Gospel

¹⁰ When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, ¹¹ but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

¹² Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, 'Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.'

¹³ He replied, 'You give them something to eat.'

They answered, 'We have only five loaves of bread and two fish – unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.' ¹⁴ (About five thousand men were there.)

But he said to his disciples, 'Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.'

¹⁵ The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. ¹⁶ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. ¹⁷ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Painting Caption

Since 1826, Glasgow City Mission have been showing Christian care to vulnerable adults and children by fighting against poverty and disadvantage in Glasgow. At their evening drop-in, they serve a two-course meal to up to 100 men and women affected by homelessness each weeknight. The drop-in is often the first contact they have with people who have hit a crisis point in their lives. Through relationships built up over food they can sign-post guests to day-time services.

Charlee Maasz has worked with Glasgow City Mission in a number of roles, first as Pastoral Cook, and now, Chief Executive. Charlee is particularly keen that guests are treated with real dignity at meal times, with staff and volunteers eating with those who come along in the evening, sharing conversation round the tables.