

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 Jesus, Mary and Martha *3s/ FB*

With whom do you identify most in the story – Mary or Martha – and why? *3s/ FB*

What do you think of what Jesus says to Martha? *FGP/ GPS*

How can we pay attention to the presence of Jesus in the midst of life? *FGP/GPS*

In a world that prizes being busy, how can we rest in the presence of Jesus? *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

Mary and Martha

Study 10 • Luke 10:38-42



Text: Luke 10:38-42 Pages 50-51 of The Portrait Gospel

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!'

⁴¹ 'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'

Painting Caption

Bex and Sarah are sisters who both work in the Wild Olive Tree Café. It was easy for them to enter the spirit of the family dynamic of Mary and Martha, during the photo-shoot for the painting.

Although he is not included explicitly in the story, Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus, is represented in the painting by Bex and Sarah's brother, Samuel. This was the 3rd painting in the series to use a rose motif. In "The Widow's Son", roses become a symbol of death and resurrection. The model for "The Crucifixion" also had a rose tattoo. It seemed appropriate to hint at the death and resurrection of Lazarus in the background of this painting.