

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 reactions of the disciples and Jesus to his arrest.

3s/ FB

In what ways was this, as Jesus says, an hour “where darkness reigns”? (v53)

FGP

What do you make of Jesus healing the ear of the servant of the high priest?

3s/ FB

The painting caption challenges our usual reading of this text. Discuss what Jesus’ arrest and implied guilt must have been like for him to deal with.

FGP

How should Jesus’ arrest and condemnation challenge our views of those in the justice system?

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

The Arrest

Study 22 • Luke 22:47-53



Text: Luke 22:47-53 Page 88 of The Portrait Gospel

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, 'Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?'

⁴⁹ When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, 'Lord, should we strike with our swords?' ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered, 'No more of this!' And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, 'Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs?' ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour — when darkness reigns.'

Painting Caption

The story of Jesus' arrest is so familiar to churchgoers. We already know that the good-guy has been wronged. However, if we passed by Jesus being arrested on Buchanan Street, what would we think?

"Who is this being arrested? He must have done something terrible!"

Special thanks to M.L. Stone from BBC Scotland's "Scot Squad" for being our police officer and to Dean Dunsmuir for giving his own insight to the scene.