

Study

Read the text twice

Look at the painting

Read the Painting Caption

Questions

What jumps off the page at you?

List what the text tells us the kingdom of God is like.

Think of the mustard seed and the yeast: what is in the control of the seed planter and the baker, and what is beyond their control?

What does the text teach us about the kingdom of God?

Discuss the kingdom of God in terms of the painting caption, which says, “something so small has a transformative effect”. How does this challenge and encourage us in our context?

FGP

3s/ FB

FGP

3s/ FB

FGP

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 Kingdom of God

Study 13 • Luke 13:18-21



Text: Luke 13:18-21 Page 61 of The Portrait Gospel

¹⁸ Then Jesus asked, ‘What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?’ ¹⁹ It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.’

²⁰ Again he asked, ‘What shall I compare the kingdom of God to?’ ²¹ It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.’

Painting Caption

Since the Wild Olive Tree Cafe opened in 2015, Gabrielle has been our chief cook. Knowing how important her baking has been to the life of the cafe in the church, it is very pleasing to read Jesus’ parables in Luke chapter 13, where the Kingdom of God is likened to a woman kneading yeast through dough.

This simple, daily act, with something so small has a transformative effect and gives a great metaphor to ponder on.