

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 judge and the widow.

3s/ FB

In what ways does the passage suggest God is like/not like the unjust judge?

FGP

Why does the passage encourage us to be persistent in crying out to God?

3s/ FB

The painting caption, and the text, speak of struggling for justice. What encouragements does the text give us as we see and seek to overcome injustice?

FGP

Where are the struggles for justice in our context? In what ways might this text challenge and empower us to be persistent in seeking justice?

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 Persistent Widow

Study 18 • Luke 18:1-8



Text: Luke 18:1-8 Page 72-73 of The Portrait Gospel

¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: 'In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, "Grant me justice against my adversary."

⁴ 'For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, "Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!"

⁶ And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?'

Painting Caption

The parable of the persistent widow is a very open story, we know the successful outcome, with the widow overcoming the justice system, but we don't know the injustice she was fighting.

Lizzie is an old friend of church, who has gone through more than her fair share of hard times. Everyone was thrilled when her son Brodie, who was not always able to live with her, was back in her care.