

## 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 tells us about Lazarus and what it tells us about the rich man.

*3s/ FB*

What does the text reveal about the rich man's attitude to Lazarus?

*3s/ FB*

How surprising is it that Lazarus ends up in Heaven while the rich man ends up in Hell?

*FGP*

What does the text teach us about God's attitude to poverty and riches?

*3s/ FB*

The painting caption says, the artist, "opted to paint the rich man as a self-portrait, inviting those of us who live in comfort to challenge ourselves on the stance we take to the poor." How does this challenge us in our context?

*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](http://scottishbiblesociety.org/equip)

## The Rich Man and Lazarus

### Study 16 • Luke 16:19-31



**Text: Luke 16:19-31** Page 69-70 of The Portrait Gospel

<sup>19</sup> ‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup> At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup> and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

<sup>22</sup> ‘The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> So he called to him, “Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.”

<sup>25</sup> ‘But Abraham replied, “Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.”

<sup>27</sup> ‘He answered, “Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family,<sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.”

<sup>29</sup> ‘Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.”

<sup>30</sup> “No, father Abraham,” he said, “but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.”

<sup>31</sup> ‘He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.””

### Painting Caption

The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus has deep meaning for us at St George’s Tron Church of Scotland. So often, the poorest in society are ignored and invisible, while those of us who live in comfort are given priority. In this painting, our Lazarus takes prominence whilst the rich man in torment is placed at the back of the painting.

David (our model for Lazarus) and his wee dog Casper are regulars here – on Sundays at the services, and in The Wild Olive Tree café during the week. He’s one of the folk who makes use of the gifted soup and coffee scheme, where people can pay in advance for food and drink for someone who can’t afford it. Iain opted to paint the rich man as a self-portrait, inviting those of us who live in comfort to challenge ourselves on the stance we take to the poor.