

## 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 rich, the widow, and their offerings.

3s/ FB

In what ways does the fact that Jesus looks and sees (v1) encourage and challenge us?

FGP

What do you make of Jesus' comments about giving out of wealth/poverty?

3s/ FB

The painting caption, and the text, speak of the poverty of the widow and the cost of her offering. Is the way our Christian community gathers and worships more costly for the poor?

FGP

How can we ensure that poverty is no barrier to participating in our Christian community?

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

## The Widow's Offering

### Study 21 • Luke 21:1-4



**Text: Luke 21:1-4** Page 83 of The Portrait Gospel

<sup>1</sup> As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. <sup>2</sup> He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup> 'Truly I tell you,' he said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup> All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'

### Painting Caption

The Widow's Offering is such a well-known story, often used in sermons to describe how we should give all we can with our money, time and talents to church, just as the anonymous widow gave her last few coins.

Giving a face to this woman suddenly sparks questions. Was it right for her to give away all her money? How would she survive? Should it not be a duty of care for the faith community to look after this widow?

During the painting of this portrait, Iain was asked several times, "Why does she have 3 coins in her hand? Should she not have two, just like in the story?"

She has three coins in her hand, because that's exactly what Janine (the model) had in her pocket.