

Study

Read the text twice

Look at the painting

Read the Painting Caption

Questions

- What jumps off the page at you? *FGP*
- List the things the man with leprosy does and says. *3s /FB*
- List the things Jesus does and says. *3s/ FB*
- Do we, like the man with leprosy, believe that Jesus can heal? *FGP/ GPS*
- How easy do we find it to approach God with our needs? *FGP/GPS*
- What difference would it make to our lives if come to God with our needs believing he is willing to help us? *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

Waiting for the Healing

Study 5 • Luke 5:12-16



Text: Luke 5:12-16 Pages 28-29 of The Portrait Gospel

¹² While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered in Leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.'

¹³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' And immediately the leprosy left him.

¹⁴ Then Jesus ordered him, 'Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.'

¹⁵ Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their illnesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Painting Caption

Paula has been a regular at St George's Tron, Church of Scotland, for quite some time. For all while, she and Iain talked about her sitting for a portrait. One day, she came in with a really bad black eye. She suggested that Iain could paint her like this, perhaps as one of the people who Jesus healed.

Chapter 5 of Luke's Gospel has two stories of healing. Read them for yourself, along with the painting, and reflect on the needs you see around you for healing in people's lives.