



**Reading Luke  
Together:**

**Parables**



## Bible Study of the Book of Acts

Acts is a comprehensive history of the church from its founding through the first few decades.

**Wednesdays**  
**March 2-May 25**  
**7:00-8:00pm**

Sierra Madre Church of Christ  
212 N Lima St  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

**[sierramadrechurch.org](http://sierramadrechurch.org)**  
**626-355-1817**

There will be opportunity for questions and comments along with Dr. Scott's lectures. An online link will be on our website.



**Dr. Jack Scott**

### Education

B.A. in Bible from  
Abilene Christian  
College

M.Div. from Yale  
University

Ph.D. in History  
from Claremont  
Graduate  
University

### Public Service

President of  
Pasadena City  
College (1987-95)

CA State  
Assemblyman  
(1996-2000)

CA State Senator  
(2000-08)

**Community Challenge:**

**Read 2 chapters a day of Luke-Acts.**

**Pray for the upcoming class on Acts.**

# Review

**As a narrative, the gospel can utilize good storytelling techniques that invite the reader to participate—**

**Movement – Journey of becoming/  
discovery**

**Tension – Obstacles we face/are**

**Characters – Recognize ourselves  
or aspire to imitate**

## Review

**Consistent themes hold the story together as a coherent whole and direct the reader to the author's/editor's intentions—**

**Holy Spirit – Drives the story**

**Prayer – Context of anticipation**

**Proclamation – Promises and fulfillment**

**People on the fringe – Poor, women, sick, sinners, Gentiles**

**<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:**

**<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.**

**He has sent me to proclaim freedom for  
the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's  
favor.”**

**20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it  
back to the attendant and sat down. The  
eyes of everyone in the synagogue were**

**fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”**

**<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.**

**23 Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”**

**24 “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows**

**in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup> And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”**

**28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.**

**—Luke 4:16-30**

## **Questions to ask as a reader**

**With whom do I identify in the story?**

**What does it mean to be empowered by the Holy Spirit and prayer?**

**What needs to be spoken?**

**What causes negative reactions from listeners?**

**Where am I going, and what is my next step as a disciple?**

# Parables

**Stories of self-examination and a testing of discipleship**

**9 His disciples asked him what this parable meant. 10 He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, ““though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.””**

**—Luke 8:9-10**

**19 The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.**

**—Luke 20:19**

# Parables

**Stories of self-examination and a testing of discipleship**

**Conventional setting**

**Twist or exaggeration**

**Function – What does it do?**

# The Gospel as Parable Language

**Not meant to be an easy  
explanation to be understood**

**Expectations**

**Surprises**

**Response of readers**