

How to Study the Book of Acts

Since Acts is a narrative, we should approach it in much the same way that we approach the Gospels. The two imperative questions remain central: (1) What is the central message of each episode? (2) What is Luke telling his readers by the way he puts the individual stories and speeches together to form the larger narrative?¹

- **Pray** - Psalm 119:18: “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law.”
- **Read the passage two times**
- **Background:**

Who is in the passage?

What is happening?

When did the event take place in the full story of Acts?

Where is the event located in the passage?

Why did the event happen?

How is the event being resolved?

¹ J. Scott Duvall, and J. Daniel Hays, Journey Into God’s Word (Grand Rapid,, Zondervan, 2008), 120.

How is God involved in this passage?

What does this passage teach us about the church?

How does this story affect the furtherance of the gospel and the church?

- **Application:**

What is the theological principle in this text? (What is the main theme and message?)

How does the central theme of this passage connect with the rest of the message of Acts and the Bible?

What did this passage mean to the biblical audience?

What are the differences between us and the biblical audience?

How should we as believers today apply this theological principle in our lives?

- **If there are two stories, look for the connections between the stories.**

How are the stories positioned?

What does the length of each episode tell us about what Luke thinks is important?

What themes or patterns are repeated throughout Acts?