



Welcome!

I'm so pleased you'll be part of our journey through the Sermon on the Mount, the Gospel of Luke, and Acts. My prayer for you is that you get as much out of this experience as possible, so what follows is some information you may find helpful.

- 1) There are two over-arching goals of the 27 weeks we'll spend on this journey:
  - a) Better know Jesus—his life and his teachings...what he *really* said, *really* meant (as best we can discern it), and *really* did; and
  - b) Decide for ourselves what knowing Jesus tells us about being his followers and his church.
- 2) As you read, reflect upon, and pray about each week's reading, work to continually ask yourself this question: *What is this text saying to me about Jesus and about me as a follower of Jesus?* I'll be posing this question to you continually in our class discussions.
- 3) You'll find a schedule of readings for each week on the following page. You'll note that we are moving *slowly*, roughly one or two chapters of Scripture per week. This is by design. The richness of the text repays close reading and I want us to have ample time to plumb its depths. Remember: we're not reading just for information; we're reading for *transformation*.
- 4) Each week, you'll receive a study guide for the coming week's reading, with some background information and questions to guide you. You're receiving a binder in which you can keep the study guides and other handouts if you choose. I encourage you, however, to not limit yourself to what I provide. Consult commentaries, ask your own questions, etc. Similarly, do what you will with what I provide you: if you find it useful, terrific; if not—or if it just overwhelms you—put it aside.
- 5) I'll open each session with some information to provide a context for the evening but the vast majority of our time together will be spent in discussion. I encourage you to participate as much (or as little) as feels comfortable to you.

6) This is a lengthy undertaking: 27 meetings spread across 7 months (there are a couple of breaks when I'm out of town). Clearly, you'll get maximum benefit from this journey if you do all the reading and attend every week. Equally clear, however, is that you are all busy—likely, you will miss a week here and a week there over the course of our time together. That is perfectly OK. Be with us when/as you can and make the most of what your schedule allows. Should you miss a week, all study guides and handouts will be posted on line ([centralongmont.net](http://centralongmont.net)).

Any questions, issues, concerns...I'm always available to you.

I trust this is going to be a mind-stretching, heart-growing, faith-altering journey for all of us — I'm glad you're part of it!

Grace and peace,

*David*

## **Class Schedule**

|          |                                |             |                  |
|----------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Jan 16   | Sermon on the Mount:<br>Matt 5 | April 24    | Luke 19:28-21:38 |
| Jan 23   | Sermon on the Mount:<br>Matt 6 | May 1       | Luke 22-23       |
| Jan 30   | Sermon on the Mount:<br>Matt 7 | May 8       | Luke 24          |
| Feb 6    | Luke 1, 2                      | May 15 & 22 | No class         |
| Feb 13   | Luke 3, 4                      | May 29      | Acts 1, 2        |
| Feb 20   | Luke 5, 6                      | June 5      | Acts 3-5:11      |
| Feb 27   | Luke 7:1-8:18                  | June 12     | Acts 5:12-8:4    |
| Mar 6    | No class                       | June 19     | Acts 8:4-9:31    |
| Mar 13   | Luke 8:18-9:50                 | June 26     | Acts 9:32-12:25  |
| Mar 20   | Luke 9:51-11:13                | July 3      | Acts 13:1-15:35  |
| Mar 27   | Luke 11:14-11:54               | July 10     | Acts 15:36-18:22 |
| April 3  | Luke 12, 13                    | July 17     | Acts 18:23-21:16 |
| April 10 | Luke 14-16                     | July 24     | Acts 21:17-23:35 |
| April 17 | Luke 17:1-19:27                | July 31     | Acts 24-26       |
|          |                                | Aug 7       | Acts 27-28       |