



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL- Origin Story

Day 1: Your Origin Story

Devotional: Every superhero has an origin story—that pivotal moment when an ordinary person becomes extraordinary. For Peter, it was transforming from a fearful fisherman who denied Jesus to a bold preacher who proclaimed Him. For Paul, it was changing from a persecutor to a passionate apostle. But Acts isn't just their story. It's yours too. The Book of Acts serves as the origin story for every Christian. It reveals how a small group of frightened believers became a movement that changed the world. And remarkably, this story continues through us today. When you accepted Christ, you became part of this ongoing narrative. The same Spirit that empowered those early disciples lives in you. The same mission that drove them forward is now yours to carry. You aren't just studying ancient history—you're living its continuation. Today, remember that you belong to something bigger than yourself. You're part of a divine story that spans centuries and continents. Your life isn't isolated or insignificant—it's a vital chapter in God's ongoing work in the world.

Bible Verse: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

Reflection Question: How does seeing yourself as part of the continuing story of Acts change your perspective on your daily life and purpose?

Prayer: Lord, thank You for including me in Your grand story. Help me to see my life not as disconnected from Your work but as a continuation of what You began in Acts. Empower me by Your Spirit to play my part faithfully. Amen.

Day 2: Waiting for Power

Devotional: Waiting isn't something we typically enjoy. We live in a world of instant gratification—fast food, same-day delivery, and information at our fingertips. Yet in Acts, we see Jesus instructing His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit before beginning their mission. Why wait? Because Jesus knew something crucial: their calling was greater than their human capacity. These disciples had spent years with Jesus. They'd witnessed His miracles, heard His teachings, and even seen Him after His resurrection. But Jesus knew that knowledge and experience weren't enough. They needed supernatural power for the supernatural task ahead. The same is true for us. We can have biblical knowledge, church experience, and good intentions, but without the Holy Spirit's power, our efforts will fall short. The Spirit isn't optional—He's essential. Perhaps you're feeling inadequate for what God has called you to do. That's actually a good place to be. It's in our weakness that His strength is made perfect. Like those first disciples, we need to wait on God, acknowledging our dependence and seeking His power.

Bible Verse: "On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.'" - Acts 1:4

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life are you trying to accomplish God's purposes through your own strength rather than waiting for and relying on the Holy Spirit's power?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, forgive me for the times I've relied on my own strength rather than Yours. I acknowledge my need for Your power in every aspect of my life. Fill me afresh today and help me to wait on You before acting. Amen.

Day 3: The Power of Your Story

Devotional: In a courtroom, witnesses don't need legal expertise—they simply share what they've seen and experienced. Their power lies not in eloquence but in authenticity. Jesus called His followers to be witnesses, not experts. He didn't say, "You will be my theologians" or "You will be my debaters." He said, "You will be my witnesses." This is liberating news! You don't need a seminary degree or perfect Bible knowledge to effectively share Christ. You simply need to tell your story—how Jesus has changed your life, forgiven your sins, healed your wounds, or given you hope. Your testimony is powerful because it's personal. People may argue with religious theories, but they can't argue with your experience. When you vulnerably share how Christ has transformed you, you're offering evidence that Jesus is alive and still at work today. Perhaps you feel your story isn't dramatic enough. Remember, even seemingly "ordinary" testimonies demonstrate the extraordinary grace of God. Whether your faith journey began with a sudden conversion or gradual realization, your story matters because it's your authentic experience with the living Christ.

Bible Verse: "After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God." - Acts 1:3

Reflection Question: What specific part of your story with Jesus might resonate with someone who doesn't yet know Him?

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for writing Your story into mine. Give me courage to share my experiences with You authentically. Help me to see my testimony not as insignificant but as powerful evidence of Your ongoing work. Use my story to draw others to You. Amen.

Day 4: From Maintenance to Movement

Devotional: There's a subtle but significant difference between maintaining and moving. Maintenance focuses on preserving what exists—keeping things running, protecting traditions, and staying comfortable. Movement, however, is about progress, growth, and transformation. The early church in Acts wasn't concerned with maintenance. They weren't trying to preserve the status quo or create comfortable religious routines. They were a movement—dynamic, expanding, and constantly pushing boundaries. Luke's account shows disciples who were positioned at starting blocks, not staying blocks. They studied, prayed, and gathered together not as ends in themselves but as preparation for action. The Spirit propelled them outward from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and beyond. Today, we face the same choice. Will we be content with maintaining our faith—attending services, going through motions, preserving traditions? Or will we embrace the movement mentality of Acts, allowing the Spirit to push us beyond comfort zones into new territory? God is still writing His story. The question isn't whether He's active—it's whether we'll join Him in His movement or remain stuck in maintenance mode.

Bible Verse: "Then they gathered around him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'" - Acts 1:6

Reflection Question: What areas of your spiritual life have become about maintenance rather than movement, and how might God be calling you to step out in faith?

Prayer: Lord, forgive me for times I've been content with maintaining rather than moving forward in faith. Stir in me a holy discontent with the status quo. Give me courage to follow Your Spirit into new territory, even when it feels uncomfortable. Amen.

Day 5: The Unfinished Story

Devotional: Have you ever noticed that the Book of Acts doesn't have a proper ending? It concludes with Paul under house arrest in Rome, still preaching the gospel—but there's no "The End." This wasn't a literary

oversight. It was intentional. Luke didn't provide a neat conclusion because the story wasn't finished. The acts of Jesus through His Spirit-empowered church were continuing. And they still are today. What began in a small upper room in Jerusalem has become a worldwide family of faith spanning continents and centuries. The same Spirit that transformed fishermen into apostles is still at work, turning ordinary people into extraordinary witnesses. This means your life is not separate from the biblical narrative—it's the next chapter. The flame that was ignited at Pentecost continues to burn through believers like you. Your acts of faith, your testimony, your service—they're all part of this unfinished story. Today, embrace your role in God's continuing narrative. You're not just reading about ancient history; you're participating in its fulfillment. The story that began in Acts is still being written, and you have a vital part to play.

Bible Verse: "He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!" - Acts 28:31

Reflection Question: How does seeing yourself as part of the unfinished story of Acts inspire you to live more boldly for Christ in your specific context?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank You for including me in Your continuing work. Help me to see my life as connected to the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before me. Use me to write the next chapter of Your story in my generation. Give me boldness to proclaim Jesus without hindrance. Amen.