



TALK IT OVER GUIDE- Origin Story

Ice Breaker

If you could have a superpower, what would it be and how would you use it to help others?

Key Verses

- Acts 1:4-5
- Acts 1:8
- 1 Corinthians 15:14
- Acts 28:31

Questions

- The book of Acts may be best described as 'the Continuing Acts of Jesus by the Holy Spirit through His Church.' How does this perspective change the way you view both the Book of Acts and your role in the church today?

- Jesus told the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit before beginning their mission. Why was this waiting period so important, and what might this teach us about our own ministry efforts?
- In what ways have you seen the Holy Spirit work through ordinary people in your life or church community?
- Jesus called us to be witnesses rather than salespeople, marketers, or lawyers. What's the difference, and how does this change how you think about sharing your faith?
- What's your personal testimony of how Jesus has worked in your life? How comfortable are you sharing this story with others?
- Luke seems to measure success in Acts by 'the spread of the Word of God and by disciples who are made.' How does this compare to how we often measure success in churches today?
- The sermon ended with the image of 'starting blocks' versus 'staying blocks.' In what areas of your spiritual life might you be stuck in the 'starting position' rather than actually moving forward?
- How might God be calling our group to continue the story of Acts in our community today?

Life Application

This week, identify one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus or is disconnected from faith. Commit to praying for them daily and look for an opportunity to simply share a small part of your story - not as a salesperson trying to close a deal, but as a witness sharing what you've experienced. Remember, you don't need to have all the answers or be a perfect speaker; you just need to be willing to share how Jesus has changed your life. Come back next week ready to share how this experience went.

Key Takeaways

- Acts is not just ancient history but the continuing story of Jesus working through His Spirit-empowered church - a story we are still part of today.

- The Holy Spirit is not optional equipment for Christians but the essential power source for the mission - without the Spirit, our efforts are insufficient.
- We are called to be witnesses, not salespeople or lawyers - simply sharing what we've experienced of Jesus in our lives.
- Success in God's kingdom is measured by the spread of His Word and disciples being made, not by maintenance of what already exists.
- The story of Acts doesn't end because God's work through His church continues today through ordinary people who are filled with His Spirit.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for including us in Your continuing story. We are humbled that You choose to work through ordinary people like us to accomplish Your extraordinary purposes. Forgive us for the times we've remained in the starting blocks rather than moving forward in faith. Fill us anew with Your Holy Spirit, not as an accessory to our Christian life, but as the very power that drives our mission. Give us courage to be Your witnesses, sharing our stories of how You've changed our lives. May we not be content with maintenance but embrace multiplication as we continue the work that began in Acts. We pray that through our small group and our church, Your Word would spread and flourish just as it did in the early church. In Your powerful name we pray, amen.