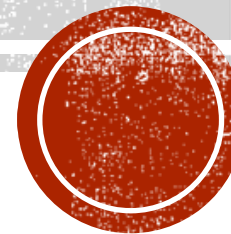


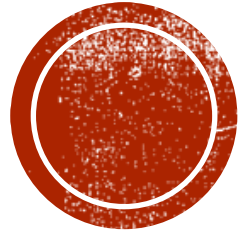
# TESTIMONIES: LET'S HAVE MORE

First Presbyterian Church of Ipswich MA

Adult Sunday School Fall 2022

Led by Charles Wagner





# INTRODUCTION

Class, Instructor Introduction

# PURPOSE OF CLASS

- To strategize as a group how more believers can prepare and share their testimonies with a world that is starving for hope.



# NOT-SO-HIDDEN AGENDA

- That two or more individuals from this class express their desire to prepare and share their testimony for the first time.



# TESTIMONIES: APPRECIATED AND PASSED ON

- In 2014, Charles was led by the Lord to search church websites for testimonies. Shockingly, less than 3% of over 2,000 church websites visited, across multiple states and denominations, even made mention of the word “testimony” or of the more popular alternative “story”. Less than 1% published a testimony. Many pastors enthusiastically encouraged Charles to move forward with confidence in his mission to encourage believers to prepare and share their testimonies. However, those same pastors passed on the notion that people in their church would get involved in testimony sharing. In a world where millions of broken people are searching for hope, asking if Jesus really does change lives, the church is reluctant to give evidence. The purpose of this course to explore why that may be and how that can be changed.



# COURSE AGENDA

Class	Date
Know what you believe about testimonies	July 31, 2022
Does the Bible tell us to share our testimonies?	September 11, 2022
Testimonies for evangelism	September 18, 2022
Testimonies for discipleship	September 25, 2022
Testimony tips and insights	October 2, 2022
Yes, you have a testimony to share	October 9, 2022
The structure of a useful testimony	October 16, 2022
Reluctance to share testimonies	October 23, 2022
A vision for a new testimony-friendly Christian culture	November 13, 2022

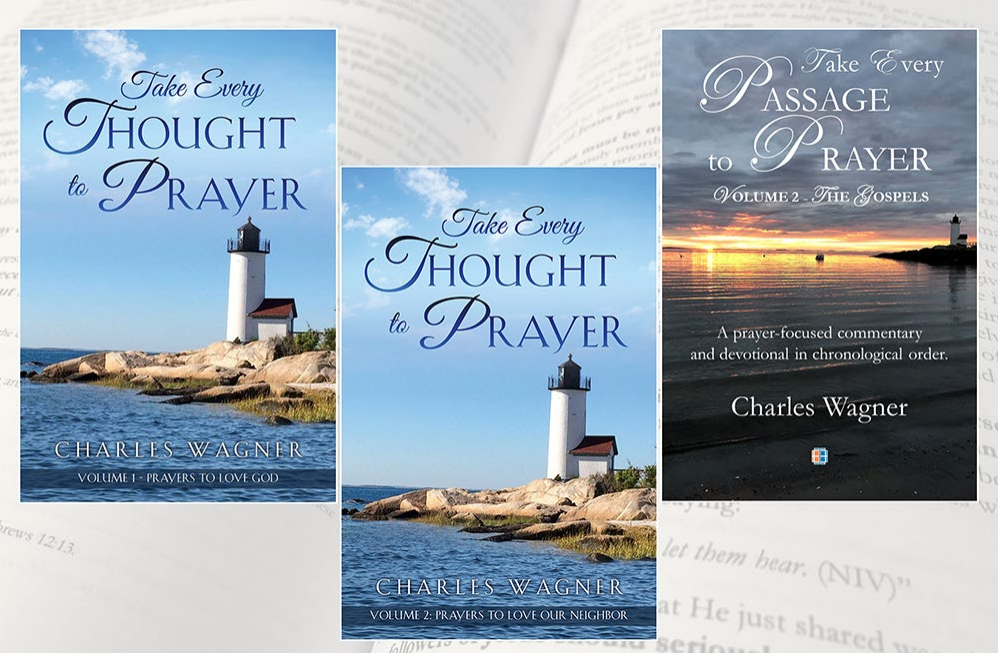


# CHARLES WAGNER: WHO AM I TODAY? 1 OF 3

- Member of FPC since 2020
- Moved to MA from PA in 2016
- Married to Karen
- Resident of Gloucester, MA
- Grew up in evangelical church
- Extensive study of Word of God
- Volunteered with son in six states, Fox 19 in Cincinnati, OH, WBOY in Morgantown, WV
- Preached in Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility in Philly
- Volunteered for Straight Ahead
- Lead small group in Gloucester
- Active in Men's Ministry
- Mentor pastor and family in Bangladesh
- Prayer ministry



# CHARLES WAGNER: WHO AM I TODAY? 2 OF 3





# CHARLES WAGNER: WHO AM I TODAY? 3 OF 3

2

Testimonies



The screenshot shows the homepage of the website 'gramazin'. The top navigation bar includes the 'gramazin' logo on the left and three buttons: 'HOME', 'JOIN US', and 'LOGIN'. The main content area features a large, scenic image of a snow-capped mountain peak under a blue sky. Overlaid on this image is the text: 'MISSION: TELL EVERYONE JESUS CHRIST REALLY DOES CHANGE LIVES'. Navigation arrows are visible on the left and right sides of the image. At the bottom of the page, the website URL 'www.gramazin.com' is displayed in a large, brown font.



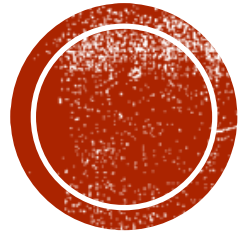
**WEEK 1 OF 9: JULY 31, 2022**

# **KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT TESTIMONIES**

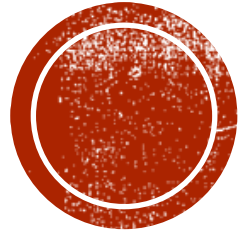
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- **Agenda:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Time</b>
Class, Instructor Introduction, Prayer	10 minutes
Revealing Our Perspectives	10 minutes
Stepping Into Their Pain	10 minutes
OT and NT Perspectives on Testimonies	10 minutes
Closing and Prayer	5 minutes





**PRAYER**



# REVEALING OUR PERSPECTIVES



**THINGS YOU  
DON'T WANT TO  
HEAR WHEN YOU  
ARE  
DISCOURAGED**

- "I'll pray for you"

- 

- 

- 

- 

- 

- 

- 



**THINGS YOU  
WANT TO HEAR  
WHEN YOU ARE  
DISCOURAGED**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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**THINGS YOU  
SHOULD HEAR  
WHEN YOU ARE  
DISCOURAGED**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



**WHO HAS THE  
MOST  
CREDIBILITY  
WHEN YOU ARE  
STRUGGLING?**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_





**WHO HAS THE  
LEAST  
CREDIBILITY  
WHEN YOU ARE  
STRUGGLING?**

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



**HOW MANY OF  
YOU KNOW AN  
INSPIRING  
TESTIMONY  
ABOUT...?**

- Divorce
- Grief
- Addiction
- Financial Crisis
- Depression
- Career Crisis
- Health Crisis
- Loneliness
- Estrangement



**WHAT DOES  
SOMEONE  
EXPERIENCING  
DIVORCE WANT  
TO HERE?**

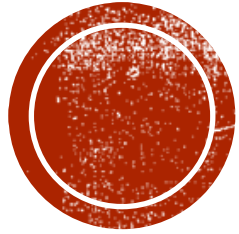
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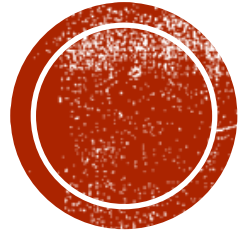
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# REVEALING OUR PERSPECTIVES

Briefly share your thoughts on our exercises together



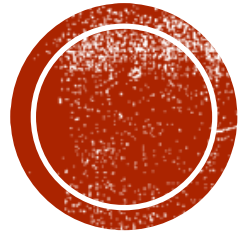
# STEPPING INTO THEIR PAIN



# **CHARLES WAGNER'S WILDERNESS STORY 2002-2015**

- Suicidal ideation
- Divorce
- Grief
- Financial Crisis
- Health Crisis
- Loneliness

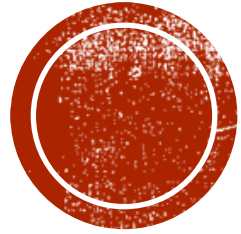




# STEPPING INTO THEIR PAIN

Briefly share your thoughts on understanding other people's pain





# OT AND NT PERSPECTIVES ON TESTIMONIES

# OLD TESTAMENT

## EXODUS 18:7-11

So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. They greeted each other and then went into the tent. Moses told his father-in-law about everything the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake and about all the hardships they had met along the way and how the LORD had saved them.

Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the LORD had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians. He said, "Praise be to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly.



# NEW TESTAMENT

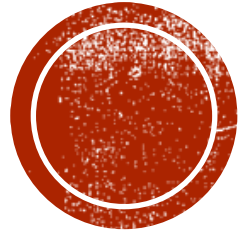
## 2 CORINTHIANS

### 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,  
who

1. comforts us in all our troubles,
2. so that we can comfort those in any trouble
3. with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.





# OT AND NT PERSPECTIVES ON TESTIMONIES

Briefly share your thoughts on these verses

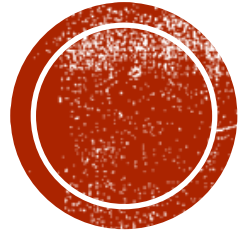
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# **CLOSING PRAYER**

