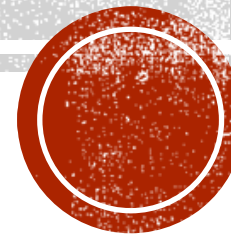


# TESTIMONIES: LET'S HAVE MORE

First Presbyterian Church of Ipswich MA

Adult Sunday School Fall 2022

Led by Charles Wagner



# COURSE AGENDA

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>
1. Know what you believe about testimonies	July 31, 2022
2. Yes, you have a testimony to share	September 11, 2022
3. Does the Bible tell us to share our testimonies?	September 18, 2022
4. Testimonies for evangelism: part 1	September 25, 2022
5. Testimonies for evangelism: part 2	October 2, 2022
6. Testimonies for discipleship	October 9, 2022 (Dave Burbridge)
7. Testimony tips and insights	October 16, 2022
8. The structure of a useful testimony	October 23, 2022
9. A vision for a new testimony-friendly Christian culture	November 13, 2022



**WHAT IF I'M IN THE  
MIDDLE OF A CRISIS?**



# THREE KINDS OF TESTIMONIES

## 1. The Dramatic Rescue.

I was \_\_\_\_\_ (a drug addict, a cancer patient, incarcerated, an alcoholic, etc.,.)

Jesus Christ rescued me.

You can also be rescued by Christ.

## 2. The Middle of the Storm.

Be VERY self-aware – Are you doing well, or doing Poorly

If you suffering and at peace, that is strong testimony

If you are suffering and doing poorly, WAIT

Christ has been there, and He promised to never forsake us



# THREE KINDS OF TESTIMONIES

## 3. I have followed Jesus Christ.

I have obeyed His commands.

I am living to put God FIRST in my life.

I have avoided hardship that I could have caused by my OWN foolishness/ my self-reliance

Therefore, I have steered away from many self-inflicted trouble



**WHAT IF THE PERSON DOES NOT  
BELIEVE THERE IS A GOD?**



# THEY DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD

- 1. Your Testimony is a Seed – Part 1.** It is God who makes it grow. Your only job is to honor and glorify Jesus Christ by crediting Him with the good things in your life. You are not responsible for how that person responds to your testimony. That is God's job.
- 2. Your Testimony is a Seed – Part 2.** Your testimony may be one of many that these people are hearing. Its cumulative.

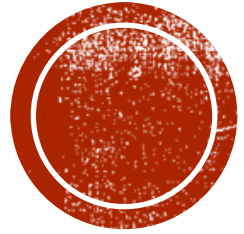


# THEY DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD

**3. Pray for the Softening of Their Heart.** Ask your Father in heaven to soften the heart of your atheist friend. Yes, this may mean they experience adversity that proves they are not in control of their lives. When they one day admit they are hurting, that may be the time to share your testimony with them.







# WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?



# LUKE 9:23

*“Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”*”



### Deny Self

- A Disciple is an **apprentice** of Jesus, learning to love God with all their heart, soul, strength
- A Disciple is **believer** who is learning to love and serve others the way Jesus did/does

Bill Hull “If you want to find yourself, then forget about yourself”

### Take up your Cross

- A Disciple is a devoted **follower** of the Lord, who trusts God's plans ahead of the their own
- A Disciple is a **child of God** who understands our sufficiency in God,
- A Disciple understands the unsurpassed power the Holy Spirit has to change us from the inside out.

### Following His Ways

- A Disciple is a **student** of the Word who models their life after Christ
- A Disciple knows that God's “rules” are rules for human flourishing
- A Disciple is a **teacher** who is faithful to God’s mandate to share their life and faith with others



If we are trying to be a Disciple or an Apprentice of Jesus,  
then we ought to examine His life and character

- Jesus was always going off to pray
- Jesus led a life of sacrifice and service.
- Jesus always knew the right answer / right response FROM Scripture
- Jesus was always saying thank you to the Father, he had a heart of Thankfulness.
- Jesus never focused on worldly things/never talked about his latest vacation
- Jesus was always humble (dependent on the Father)
- Jesus never asked, “what’s in it for me?”
- Jesus was always authentic and transparent
- Jesus always tried to re-humanize people (bring them back to the Father)
- Jesus was always trusting / always submissive to His Father’s Ways



# TESTIMONIES IN DISCIPLESHIP

Testimonies used in evangelism to lead a person to faith in Christ.

Testimonies used in discipleship to help the believer grow in Faith



# TESTIMONIES IN DISCIPLESHIP

## Dan's Testimony

- Coming to Jesus
- Ongoing Story

## Dave's Testimony

- Coming to Jesus
- Ongoing Story



# JOHN NEWTON

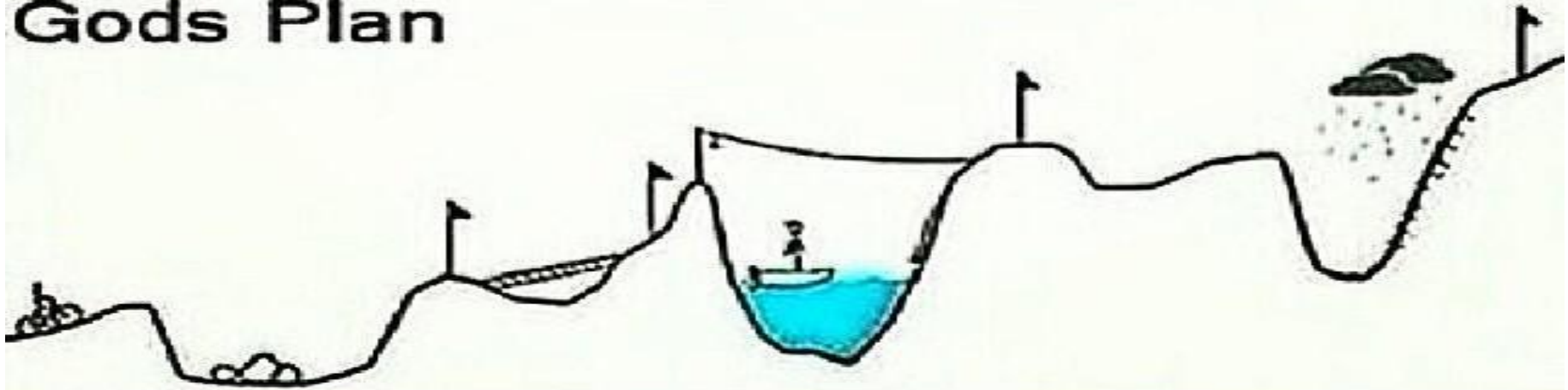
Assurance grows by repeated conflict, by our repeated experimental proof of the Lord's power and goodness to save; when we have been brought very low and helped, sorely wounded and healed, cast down and raised again, have given up all hope, and been suddenly snatched from danger, and placed in safety; and when these things have been repeated to us and in us a thousand times over, we begin to learn to trust simply to the word and power of God, beyond and against appearances: and this trust, when habitual and strong, bears the name of assurance; for even assurance has degrees. (*Newton on the Christian Life*, 220)



## Your plan



## Gods Plan





# NEW SONG PSALMS

- Psalm 33:3 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
- Psalm 40:3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.
- Psalm 96:1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!
- Psalm 98:1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
- Psalm 144:9 I will sing a new song to you, O God; upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,
- Psalm 149:1 Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!

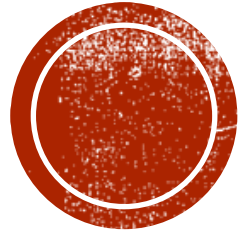


## 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

*“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”*

I heard Bible truth. I applied it to my life. You can too. Once you do, teach others who come after you.

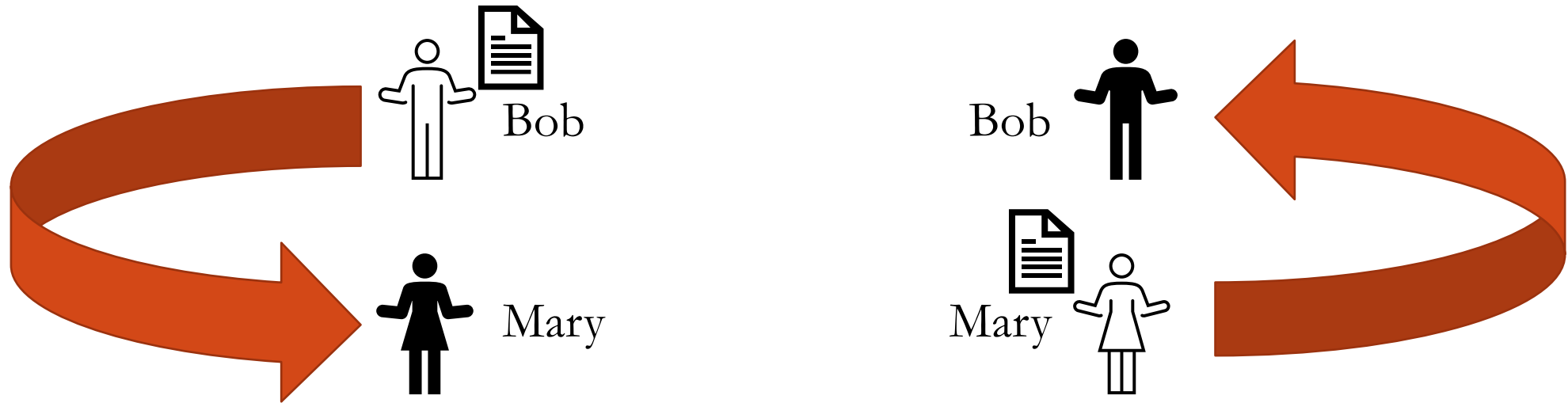




**TESTIMONY SHARING IS  
ONGOING IN THE CHURCH**



# RECIPROCAL TESTIMONY SHARING

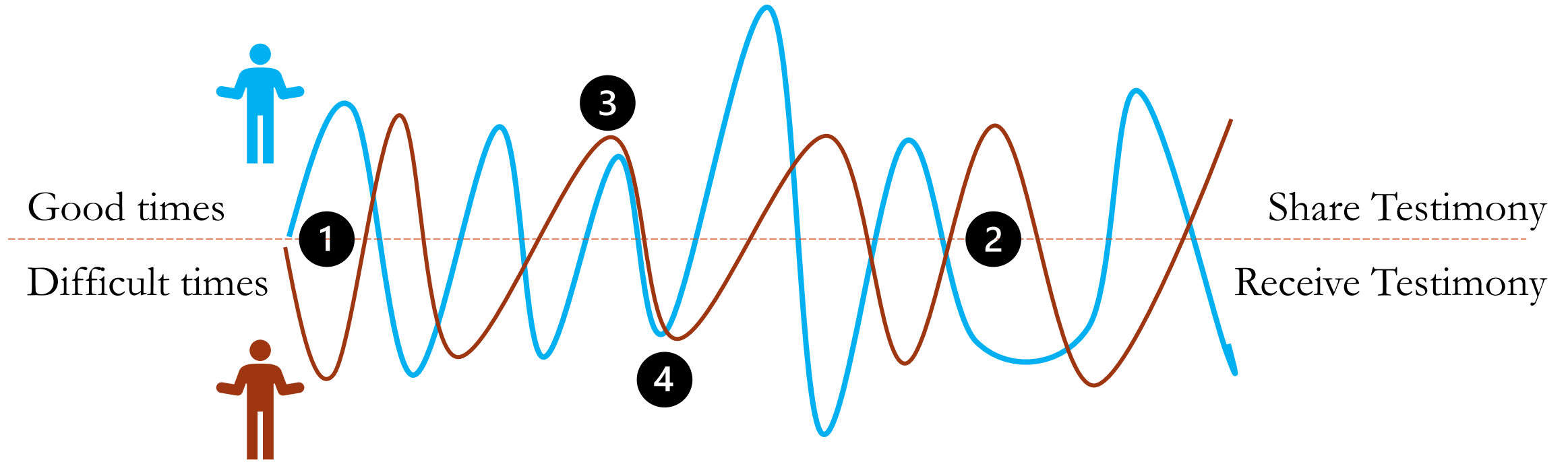


Sometimes Bob is doing well, and Mary is struggling in her walk. Bob's testimony encourages Mary.

Other times Mary is doing well, and Bob is struggling in his walk. Mary's testimony encourages Bob.



# RECIPROCAL TESTIMONY SHARING



(1) When Bob is doing well, Jason may not be. Jason needs to receive Bob's testimony. (2) Sometimes Bob is in need and Jason needs to share his testimony. (3) Sometimes they are both doing well and together thank God. (4) Other times they are both struggling and can encourage each other with their testimonies of God's previous goodness to them.



# RECIPROCAL TESTIMONY SHARING - BONHOEFFER

But God has put this Word into the mouth of men in order that it may be communicated to other men.

When one person is struck by the Word, he speaks it to others. God has willed that we should seek and find His living Word in the witness of a brother, in the mouth of man.

Therefore, the Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and discouraged, for by himself he cannot help himself without belying the truth.

He needs his brother man as a bearer and proclaimer of the divine word of salvation. He needs his brother solely because of Jesus Christ. The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother's is sure.



# CONCLUSION

It may be scary to share your testimony with unbelievers.  
However, your fellow believers in the church need your testimony just as much to encourage them in their walk with Christ.  
That is how we **GROW IN CHRIST**

