

INTRODUCTION

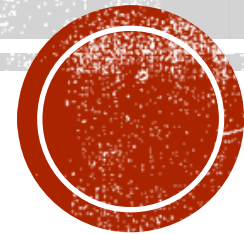
Class, Instructor Introduction

TESTIMONIES: LET'S HAVE MORE

First Presbyterian Church of Ipswich MA

Adult Sunday School Fall 2022

Led by Charles Wagner



COURSE AGENDA

Class	Date
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

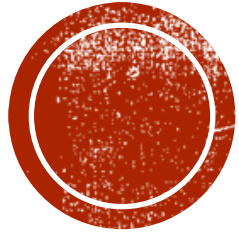


WEEK 7: OCTOBER 16, 2022

TIPS AND INSIGHTS

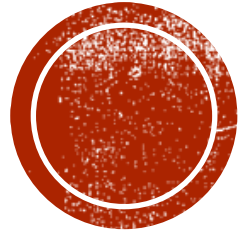
Item	Time
Class, Introduction, Prayer	5 minutes
Questions from Last Week	10 minutes
What is Discipleship?	10 minutes
Testimony Sharing is Ongoing	10 minutes
Closing	5 minutes





PRAYER





TIPS AND INSIGHTS

1. YOU WILL SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

“And every tongue shall confess that Jesus, Messiah, is Lord, to the glory of God, the father.” Philippians 2:11

One day, you will publicly confess that Jesus is Lord. Why wait till glory? Why not do it now when your testimony can have an impact on the eternal destination of your family member, friend, or neighbor?



2. A GIFT OF APPRECIATION

Who led you to faith in Jesus Christ? Who prayed for you day after day? Who set a godly example for you? Who ministered to you in a time of great need? What Sunday School teacher changed your life? Coach? Counselor? What about your godly parents?

Your testimony honors them. Show your gratefulness by sharing your testimony that declares their good work in your life.



3. TELL ABOUT OTHER TESTIMONIES

Ok. You don't want to share your testimony. Why can't you re-share someone else's testimony? Who do you know who has an inspiring testimony that you can re-share with others? Not know anyone? Why not? Converse with other believers and ask them to share their faith story with you privately. You might gather a toolbox of testimonies to share with people in your life. They will be safe – not about you.



4. BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN CHURCH

You come to church one day. A stranger gets up and shares their testimony. What? They battled with cancer. Your loved one is going through that now. You have a reason to approach that person and talk with them about their experience. You have a new friend. Testimony sharing builds relationships within a church.



5. JESUS IS ON TRIAL

The world has charged Jesus with a crime. He is on trial for being a fraud. The charge is that he is not the savior. He does not rescue people. He does not deliver people from anguish. He is irrelevant and meaningless.

“Jesus, do you have any witnesses for your defense? Is there anyone who will validate your claim that you touch lives and rescue people?”

Your testimony is Jesus’ defense. Are you willing to get dressed and go to the court to defend Him?



6. SPIRITUAL CHECK

The preparation of your testimony is an opportunity to look in the mirror and evaluate where you are spiritually. What has Christ done for me? Who did He use to touch my life? How did He save me? How has He provided for me? How has He protected me? How has He led and guided me? What do I have to be thankful for? What gifts has He given me? What opportunities do I have to serve Him? Am I afraid of sharing the gospel? Why? Who do I know that needs to hear my story? What is my story for that matter?



7. ANTIDOTE FOR PRAISE

Many people are complimenting you. Many people are expressing admiration for you. It's beginning to get to you. Maybe you are an amazing person. Turn to the creation of your testimony. Read the testimony you already wrote. It's all about Jesus. It's all about the Holy Spirit. It's not about you. Use your testimony to humble yourself.



8. HEROIC HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT

What can people do by the power of God? They can do amazing things. They can overcome adversity. They can rise above trouble. They can crawl miles through suffering, bleeding and broken, and accomplish something incredible. When did you do something, by the power of God, that was pure hard work, sweat, and determination? In a world where people quit and don't like to push the envelop of their comfort zone, we need stories of heroic human achievement.



9. GOD GAVE YOU HIS STORY OF YOUR LIFE

You already have a testimony. It is there. Sitting on your desk. God has already given you a wonderful story to share. He's now looking at you and pointing to the testimony. What are you going to do with it? Are you going to keep it there? Or are you going to pick it up and prepare it? Are you going to share it with others? The thing is the story belongs to Him. Is it really your decision to let that testimony sit on the desk?



10. NEXT GENERATION

Imagine a ghost town. Abandoned buildings. Tumbleweed blowing across the dirt main street. It is a metaphor for Christianity. Believers stopped telling the next generation of the wonderful things that Christ does for people. The next generation didn't know that Jesus Christ really changes lives. Christianity is abandoned.

It is essential that we share our testimonies with the next generation.



11. LOOK FOR INSPIRATION

Ok. You don't have a testimony...yet. You just aren't feeling it. The words aren't coming to you. Fine. Are you looking for inspiration? Do you take some time to be alone with God? Do you hear what He might be saying to you when you walk in the woods? Are you listening to what people say to you? Does something they say inspire you? Are you in the Word? Are you asking for inspiration through prayer?



12. DEEP WATERS

“The purposes of a person’s heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.” Proverbs 20:5

Did you consider the possibility that other people might be better positioned to help you write your testimony? They may know you better than you know yourself. They may see strengths in you that you don’t see. They may see weaknesses in you that you don’t see. They may see ways that God worked in your life that you don’t see.

Ask a friend who knows you well to pull up a chair and help you write your testimony.



13. YOUR FUTURE SELF

Forget about everyone else!

Write your testimony for your future self!

There may be a day when you are discouraged. There may be a day when you are despairing of life. There may be a day when God doesn't feel close to you. Pull out that old testimony and read it again. Remind yourself of what Christ has done for you. It may very well lift your spirit and renew your hope.



14. PROVE BIBLICAL WISDOM

You find yourself in a difficult situation. You choose to follow Biblical wisdom. What happened? Tell us about it. Tell your family. Tell your friends. Tell your church community. Tell the people you are discipling. Give honor to God's commands by sharing your testimony of the blessings of doing things God's way.



15. HUMDRUM — PART 1

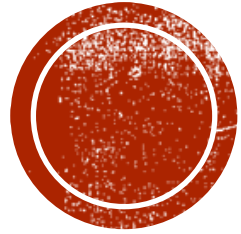
So you believe that your testimony is humdrum. Maybe it is. Maybe your testimony makes people yawn. Maybe it doesn't change a life. Do you think that Jesus Christ won't be pleased with your effort? Do you think He won't be smiling that you took the time to share your story of what He has done for you? Do you think that Jesus Christ cares about your testimony's effectiveness? He cares only that you gave it to Him as a gift. He will use it somehow if He chooses to do so. Well done, faithful servant!



16. HUMDRUM — PART 2

So you believe that your testimony is humdrum. Maybe it is. Maybe your testimony makes people yawn. Maybe it doesn't change a life. However, that guy in the back of the room...yes, him. He's now inspired to write his own testimony. His testimony will be dynamic. It will touch many lives. We have your testimony to thank for touching many lives through the other guy's testimony.





CLOSING PRAYER