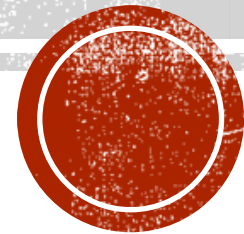


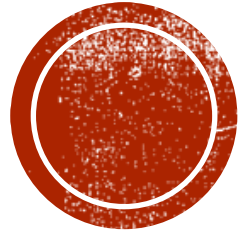
TESTIMONIES: LET'S HAVE MORE

First Presbyterian Church of Ipswich MA

Adult Sunday School Fall 2022

Led by Charles Wagner





INTRODUCTION

Class, Instructor Introduction

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

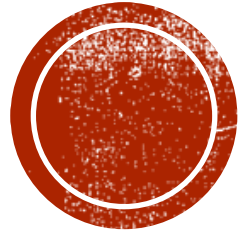


WEEK 7: OCTOBER 16, 2022

TIPS AND INSIGHTS

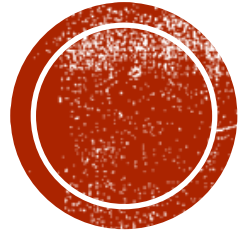
Item	Time
Class, Introduction, Prayer	5 minutes
Questions from Last Week	10 minutes
What is Discipleship?	10 minutes
Testimony Sharing is Ongoing	10 minutes
Closing	5 minutes





PRAYER





STRUCTURE OF USEFUL TESTIMONY

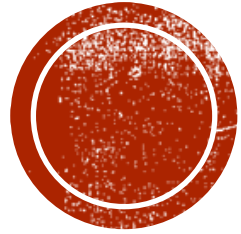


THE “I DID IT!” TESTIMONY

I was down and out. Life was hard on me. I was abused and treated cruelly. I was bruised and bleeding. But I said to myself, “I’m not going to quit. I will overcome. I will rise above this. I will conquer.” And then I did it. I took care of myself. I fought hard to overcome the challenges I faced. I was heroic. I did what I needed to do to get where I wanted to be. I didn’t quit. I persevered. You can do it too! Fight for yourself! Believe in yourself! God helps those who help themselves!

Based on this testimony, what component should a testimony include?





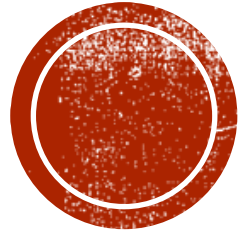
**MAKE YOUR TESTIMONY
ABOUT CHRIST, NOT YOU**

THE “LIFE IS MISERABLE” TESTIMONY

My life has been miserable. Each day is a nightmare for me. I have no hope. I can give you a long list of things that aren't right in my life. Things will never improve for me. Whatever I try will fail. Every time I try to fix my life, something always bad happens. God always let's me down. It seems at times that God tries to make my life more miserable than it already is. But I will survive by my own strength. You can survive too!

Based on this testimony, what component should a testimony include?





**MAKE YOUR TESTIMONY ABOUT
YOUR THANKSGIVING**

THE “LOOK AT ME” TESTIMONY

I was a good athlete in high school. I had many friends. I made honor roll each marking period. I did well in college too, making the Dean’s list often. I was involved in many different communities on campus. Once more I had many friends. I got a good job after college. I made a lot of money. I was promoted into top positions. I have enjoyed the good life. Fast cars. Mansions. Traveled the world. Made friends with the elite of society. God has been good to me. I’m sure he’s been just as good to you too. Right?

Based on this testimony, what component should a testimony include?

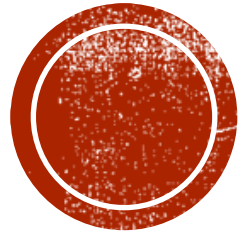


THE “CRITIC” TESTIMONY

I have no idea why people find themselves in trouble. I’ve managed to stay out of trouble all my life. I make good decisions. I think carefully before I act. I use my reason and intelligence to guide me through life. You should too. People who are in trouble did it to themselves. They could have made better decisions like me. So, I’m not so sympathetic to their situation. They created their own mess. Be smart and avoid trouble, like me.

Based on this testimony, what component should a testimony include?





BE HUMBLE IN YOUR TESTIMONY

THE “BAD DOCTRINE” TESTIMONY

Jesus Christ loves everyone. He won't send anyone to hell. He forgives us all no matter what we've done or what we believe. I can be into all kinds of philosophies or religions. It doesn't matter. I'm forgiven. I can do whatever I want because God will never punish me. He's all about love. He just wants me to be nice to people. He just wants me to be happy. Jesus is so wonderful. He makes no demands upon me.

Based on this testimony, what component should a testimony include?

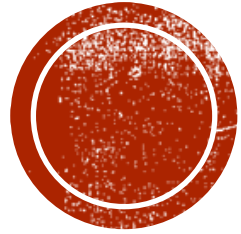


THE “DECEIVED” TESTIMONY

There are many ways to get yourself out of a difficult situation. I found literature from various religions to be quite helpful in my recovery. You should read the writings of the great philosophers. There are some new age beliefs that were most useful to me. I don't know where I would be today without my tarot cards and palm readings.

Based on this testimony, what component should a testimony include?





**MAKE YOUR TESTIMONY
ABOUT THE TRUE GOSPEL**

THE STRUCTURE OF A TESTIMONY

My Testimony

1. **Greetings and Gratefulness.** Let the reader/audience know that you are grateful for the opportunity to share your story with them. It is your privilege for them to enter your story.
2. **Connect With Audience.** Share evidence that you have experienced what they have experienced – circumstances, feelings, or beliefs. You are like them, and you are one of them. Give them reason to bond with you, to see themselves in your story or to put themselves in your shoes.
3. **Share The “Takeaway” from Your Story.**
 - a. **It's About God's Glory.** Tell people right away that the hero of your testimony is not you, but it is God the Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. Tell us what we will learn about God's character through your story. Make sure to focus on the overarching learning objective –that God is good, all the time and in every circumstance. Use Bible verses.
 - b. **Humble Yourself.** Make yourself vulnerable. Summarize what you have learned about your weakness, neediness, and brokenness. Use self-deprecating humor if necessary. Make it clear that your story is all about God's glory because it so clearly can't be about your glory.
4. **Share Your Story.**
 - a. **Tell us what you used to think about God/Jesus.** Did you think He was disengaged, detached, mean-spirited, unloving, and cruel? Cite examples for us of moments when you demonstrated these beliefs.
 - b. **Tell us about the trouble that came into your life** caused by your misconceptions of both God/Jesus and yourself.
 - c. **Tell us what happened to change your mind.** How did God/Jesus reveal Himself to you? How did He show His love for you? What did you learn about yourself? Be sure to credit the work of other believers in your life.
 - d. **Tell us about your faith in Jesus Christ.** What did He do for you? What do you believe about Him? Who is He now to you?
 - e. **Tell us how your life was transformed.** How did you think differently? How did you act differently? How did you repent of your old ways? How did you surrender yourself to God/Christ? How did you desire to serve God/Christ?
5. **Life is Still Hard But God/Christ is Good.** Life is still difficult for you. Tell us how. However, credit your faith in God's/Christ's goodness for the peace, joy, and hope that you now have which gets you through trying times.
6. **Tell Us What You Are Thankful For.** Be generous and abundant in your thanksgiving for all the many ways God/Christ has blessed you. Encourage us to be thankful ourselves.
7. **Tell us About The Challenges Ahead.** What trouble do you anticipate in the future? What things do you still need to learn? Tell us that since God/Christ will carry you and deliver you that you don't fear the future.
8. **Invitation to Embrace Christ.** Be sure to conclude your testimony with an invitation for the listener/reader to trust in God's goodness and to receive Jesus Christ as their savior. Make it clear that you are available for further conversation.
9. **Thank the listener/audience.** Show appreciation that the listener reviewed your entire story.
10. **Bless them.** Give the reader a blessing, for them to come in faith in Jesus Christ and for Him to transform their hearts and lives, giving them many reasons to be thankful.

The End



THE STRUCTURE OF A TESTIMONY

My Testimony

- 1. Greetings and Gratefulness.** Let the reader/audience know that you are grateful for the opportunity to share your story with them. It is your privilege for them to enter your story.
- 2. Connect With Audience.** Share evidence that you have experienced what they have experienced – circumstances, feelings, or beliefs. You are like them, and you are one of them. Give them reason to bond with you, to see themselves in your story or to put themselves in your shoes.



THE STRUCTURE OF A TESTIMONY

3. Share The “Takeaway” from Your Story.

- a. **It’s About God’s Glory.** Tell people right away that the hero of your testimony is not you, but it is God the Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. Tell us what we will learn about God’s character through your story. Make sure to focus on the overarching learning objective –that God is good, all the time and in every circumstance. Use Bible verses.
- b. **Humble Yourself.** Make yourself vulnerable. Summarize what you have learned about your weakness, neediness, and brokenness. Use self-deprecating humor if necessary. Make it clear that your story is all about Christ’s glory because it so clearly can’t be about your glory.



THE STRUCTURE OF A TESTIMONY

4. Share Your Story.

- a. **Tell us what you used to think about Jesus.** Did you think He was disengaged, detached, mean-spirited, unloving, and cruel? Cite examples for us of moments when you demonstrated these beliefs.
- b. **Tell us about the trouble** that came into your life caused by your misconceptions of both Jesus and yourself.
- c. **Tell us what happened to change your mind.** How did Jesus reveal Himself to you? How did He show His love for you? What did you learn about yourself? Be sure to credit the work of other believers in your life.



THE STRUCTURE OF A TESTIMONY

4. Share Your Story (continued)

- d. **Tell us about your faith in Jesus Christ.** What did He do for you? What do you believe about Him? Who is He now to you?
- e. **Tell us how your life was transformed.** How did you think differently? How did you act differently? How did you repent of your old ways? How did you surrender yourself to Christ? How did you desire to serve Christ?



THE STRUCTURE OF A TESTIMONY

- 5. Life is Still Hard But Christ is Good.** Life is still difficult for you. Tell us how. However, credit your faith in Christ's goodness for the peace, joy, and hope that you now have which gets you through trying times.
- 6. Tell Us What You Are Thankful For.** Be generous and abundant in your thanksgiving for all the many ways Christ has blessed you. Encourage us to be thankful ourselves.



THE STRUCTURE OF A TESTIMONY

- 7. Tell us About The Challenges Ahead.** What trouble do you anticipate in the future? What things do you still need to learn? Tell us that since Christ will carry you and deliver you that you don't fear the future.
- 8. Invitation to Embrace Christ.** Be sure to conclude your testimony with an invitation for the listener/reader to trust in God's goodness and to receive Jesus Christ as their savior. Make it clear that you are available for further conversation.

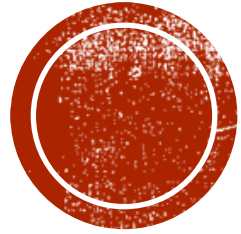


THE STRUCTURE OF A TESTIMONY

9. **Thank the listener/audience.** Show appreciation that the listener reviewed your entire story.
10. **Bless them.** Give the reader a blessing, for them to come in faith in Jesus Christ and for Him to transform their hearts and lives, giving them many reasons to be thankful.

The End





CLOSING PRAYER

