

# Management: A Christian Approach

## Syllabus and Modules

Management, in simplest terms, is the process of getting results. As we master it, we see improvement in our organizations, teams, families, communities, even ourselves. In fact, we may see improvement in every area of life that matters, professionally and personally. Is there a Christian approach? In this course, students will study management through that lens and design a customized plan to pursue results in a way that seeks to honor God.

**Course text:** *Management by Proverbs: Scriptural Wisdom for Superior Results* (2020 edition, ISBN 978-0578718217) and several films about management, as indicated in the modules.

	Topic	Lesson	Reading	Video Case Studies	
Module 1	The Manager in the Mirror	How we manage ourselves and others flows from an underlying worldview	<i>Management by Proverbs, Principles 1-6</i>		Quiz
Modules 2-3	Managing Your Organization	A mission, plan, structure and scorecard are essential tools to get results	<i>Management by Proverbs, Principles 7-11</i>		Quiz
Modules 4-5	Managing Your People	Success often depends on having the right people, led the right way	<i>Management by Proverbs, Principles 12-18</i>		Quiz
Modules 6-8	Managing Your Life	Better management can help us achieve our personal and career goals	<i>Management by Proverbs, Principles 19-30</i>		Quiz

## MODULE 1 The Manager in the Mirror

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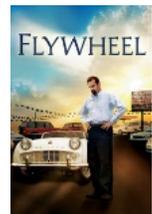
### ACTIVITY 1

Read chapters 1-6 of *Management by Proverbs* (Optional: also read the Introduction). Then watch and discuss the brief video exercise, "[The Downsizing Dilemma](#)" (you can also find this case on pp. 129-130 of your textbook), defending your layoff decisions. What do your choices imply about you, "the manager in the mirror"?



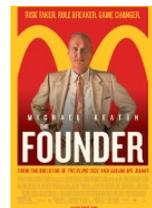
### ACTIVITY 2

Watch the movie *Flywheel*, taking notes based on the questions on pp. 65-66 of your text. Discuss your observations with at least one other person.



### ACTIVITY 3

Watch the movie *The Founder*, taking notes based on the questions on pp. 140-141 of your text. Discuss your observations with at least one other person.



### ACTIVITY 4

**"Managing My Life" journal:** Begin a journal that applies the management concepts in this course to your own life. In the first section of the journal, complete the exercise in your text entitled "What really matters at work?" (pp. 57-58.) Then, based on your insights from that exercise and the other activities in this Module, draft a set of personal "core values." What characteristics should guide your life? Try to identify three to five values that apply to both your personal and professional endeavors.

### Activity 5

Complete the Module 1 quiz

## MODULE 2 Managing Your Organization, Part 1: Competitive Advantage

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### ACTIVITY 1

Read chapter 7, 9 and 10 of *Management by Proverbs*.

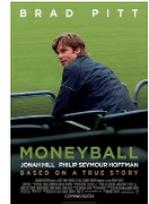
## ACTIVITY 2

Watch the movie *Jerry Maguire*, taking notes based on the questions on pp. 139-140 of your text. Discuss your observations with at least one other person.



## ACTIVITY 3

Watch the movie *Moneyball*, taking notes based on the questions on pp. 137-138 of your text. Discuss your observations with at least one other person.



## ACTIVITY 4

### “Managing My Life” journal:

- A. Create a personal mission statement for your life. Then discuss your draft with people who can offer you good advice, and modify it accordingly.
- B. Set some short-term (one year), intermediate-term (five to ten years), and long-term (20+ years) personal and professional goals that are consistent with your mission and core values. Be guided by the acronym “SMART” when setting the goals (pp. 91-92). Then outline of the steps necessary to achieve each of your goals. Include an estimated timetable for each step.
- C. Create a set of metrics to track your progress toward each of your goals. Ideally, they should be quantifiable, providing you with numbers you can compare across time. If you do this well, it becomes a powerful, personal scorecard.

## Activity 5

Complete the Module 2 quiz

## MODULE 3 Managing Your Organization, Part 2: Advantage through Focus

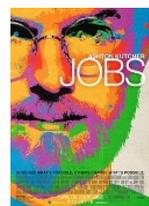
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### ACTIVITY 1

Read chapter 8 of *Management by Proverbs*.

### ACTIVITY 2

Watch the movie *Jobs*, taking notes based on the questions on p. 139 of your text. Discuss your observations with at least one other person. Also, discuss again the story *The Founder* as you consider how simplicity / focus can produce competitive advantage.



### ACTIVITY 3

Review and discuss the case study “Big Problems at Big Idea” (pp. 131-135).

### ACTIVITY 4

**“Managing My Life” journal:** Conduct a “time audit” to analyze where your time goes. For at least 24 (ideally 48 or 72) hours, keep track of everything you do, in 15 minute increments. Then analyze your use of time. If you’re like many people, you’ll see opportunities to strip some of the complexity from your life and to focus it on the things that matter the most.

### Activity 5

Complete the Module 3 quiz

## MODULE 4 Managing Your People, Part 1: The Right People

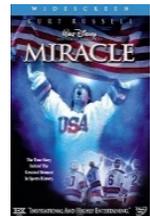
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### ACTIVITY 1

Read chapters 13 and 18 of *Management by Proverbs*.

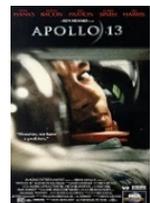
### ACTIVITY 2

Watch the movie *Miracle*, taking notes based on the questions on pp. 226-227 of your text. Discuss your observations with at least one other person.



### ACTIVITY 3

Watch the movie *Apollo 13* and discuss the questions on pp. 227-228 of your text. Discuss your observations with at least one other person.



### ACTIVITY 4

**“Managing My Life” journal:** In light of the importance of having “the right people” around us, as described in this Module, consider who might be the right person to come alongside of you as a mentor or coach or accountability partner. If you have a specific person in mind, approach him or her about the possibility. If you don’t have specific person in mind, at least identify the characteristics of an ideal mentor for you.

### Activity 5

Complete the Module 4 quiz

## MODULE 5 Managing Your People, Part 2: The Right Posture

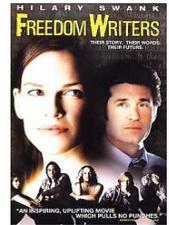
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### ACTIVITY 1

Read chapters 14-16 of *Management by Proverbs* and the case study "Praising People to success at Mary Kay." Also review chapter 2, "Lead with Humility."

### ACTIVITY 2

Watch the movie *Freedom Writers*, taking notes based on the questions on pp. 225-226 of your text. Discuss your observations with at least one other person. (Optional: Watch the movie *Dead Poets Society*, which is similar in many ways to *Freedom Writers*, and discuss the questions on p. 228 of your text.)



### ACTIVITY 3

**"Managing My Life" journal:** Complete the "five coins" exercise described on page 193 of your text and reflect on the experience in your journal. Each time you affirm someone, pay attention to both that person's reaction and your own.

### Activity 4

Complete the Module 5 quiz

## MODULE 6 Managing Your Life, Part 1: Becoming a Better Person

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### ACTIVITY 1

Read chapters 19, 22, 27, and 30 of *Management by Proverbs*.

### ACTIVITY 2

Read and discuss the case study "Successful Sam" (pp. 283-288), applying some of your reading from Activity 1. A video version of this case is also [available here](#).

### ACTIVITY 3

Watch the movie *Fireproof*, taking notes based on the questions on pp. 225-226 of your text. Discuss your observations with at least one other person.



#### ACTIVITY 4

**“Managing My Life” journal:** Based on what you learned in this Module, review the goals you set in Module 2 and revise them if necessary. Also, update your plan and measures to match any revised goals you’ve set.

#### Activity 5

Complete the Module 6 quiz

## MODULE 7 Managing Your Life, Part 2: Clues to Your Calling

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#### ACTIVITY 1

Read chapters 20, 21, and 23 of *Management by Proverbs*. (Optional: Also read chapter 24.)

#### ACTIVITY 2

Watch the movie *The Pursuit of Happyness*, taking notes based on the questions on pp. 294-295 of your text. Discuss your observations with at least one other person.



#### ACTIVITY 3

**“Managing My Life” journal:** Review again chapter 21, “Clarify Your Calling,” with specific attention to the “three questions” that may offer clues to God’s leading in your career. Then list of your strengths, passions and financial needs, and try to discern three to five career directions that reside in the intersection. Highlight those directions that best fit your personal mission and core values. For a more comprehensive experience, complete the entire exercise entitled “Creating a Career Plan” (pp. 289-292).

#### Activity 4

Complete the Module 7 quiz

## MODULE 8 Managing Your Life, Part 3: Obstacles to Success

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#### ACTIVITY 1

Read chapters 25, 26, and 28 of *Management by Proverbs*. Also review chapter 4.

## ACTIVITY 2

Watch the movie *The Devil Wears Prada*, taking notes based on the questions [available here](#). Discuss your observations with at least one other person.



## ACTIVITY 3

**“Managing My Life” journal:** Look again at your mission and goals, and think deeply about the potential impediments to achieving them. Consider the obstacles raised in this Module (conformity to the culture, chronic discontentment, feelings-based decisions, etc.), as well as any others that might be stumbling blocks for you. Identify your most formidable obstacles. What you can do to minimize or overcome them?

## Activity 4

Complete the Module 8 quiz

## SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR THIS COURSE

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### ACTIVITY 1

Read chapter 11 and then discuss the case study “When a good worker is poor” (pp. 215-217).

### ACTIVITY 2

Read chapters 12, 17 and 29 on the topics of people skills and navigating difficult conversations. Identify several opportunity areas for yourself—skills that you would like to develop further, based on the ideas in these chapters. To delve more deeply, put some of these ideas into practice with a difficult conversation you have been avoiding.