

FOR PREVIEW ONLY. NOT FOR SALE.  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



1

# PRINCIPLES FOR THE YOUNG BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEUR



NEHEMIAH PROJECT INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES  
Patrice Tsague



# PRINCIPLES FOR THE YOUNG BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEUR



Student Workbook

NEHEMIAH PROJECT INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES



By Patrice Tsague

## PRINCIPLES FOR THE YOUNG BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEUR

© 2016 **Nehemiah Publishing**. All rights reserved. No portion of this work may be reproduced in whole or in part, electronic or otherwise, without first obtaining written permission from NPIM, Inc.

### NEHEMIAH PUBLISHING

A DIVISION OF NEHEMIAH PROJECT INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES, INC.  
5200 SW MEADOWS RD., SUITE 150, LAKE OSWEGO, OR 97035

**PHONE** 1-877-916-1180

By Patrice Tsague

Edited by Gina Tsague and Catherine Tobey.

Cover Design and layout by Vine House Productions.

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

[www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-940083-08-7

For more information: [www.nehemiahproject.org](http://www.nehemiahproject.org)

**SPECIAL THANKS** to our Staff, Board of Directors, Volunteers, Interns, Founders, Charitable Investors, Nehemiah Certified Teachers, Area Developers, License Partners, BE alumni and all of our strategic partners for their support and contribution, which made this material possible.

# Letter From the Author

Congratulations on taking this first step towards your entrepreneurship journey! The word entrepreneurship comes from the French word *entreprendre* meaning “to undertake,” or better translated in English “to initiate.” So, entrepreneurs are initiators: they initiate projects that solve problems in their communities and nations in a profitable way. They also initiate solutions to address their own personal problems. When they face a difficult situation, they do not complain or whine, but instead consider their options and find solutions to address the issues.

This course will help you go beyond just being an initiator to being God’s initiator. This is what happened to me in 1993 after I graduated from high school and faced a family financial crisis that disrupted my college education. Instead of settling for a dead-end job or feeling sorry for myself, I decided to take steps towards starting my own business. I was scared and nervous but I took the leap of faith and though I did not know Jesus then, along the way a Christian businessman shared the gospel with me and I accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. This led me to initiate the Nehemiah Project and a coaching business that has trained and coached several thousand entrepreneurs all over the world.

I don’t know how God is going to use you, but I know if you are diligent to learn the principles from this course and take the risk to initiate the ideas that God has placed in your heart, doing it His way, you will do even more than I have done. I wish you all the best and I look forward to seeing you thrive in business and in life as you commit to being about the Father’s business.

In the Service of the Great Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrice Tsague". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Patrice Tsague

Co-Founder and Chief Servant Officer  
Nehemiah Project International Ministries



# Table of Contents

## Chapter 1

<b>INTRODUCING BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (BE) .....</b>	<b>1</b>
I. THE TWELVE PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S ECONOMY .....	3
II. THE PURPOSE OF WEALTH .....	8
III. THE DEFINITION OF BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP .....	13
IV. THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP .....	16
V. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BIBLICAL AND WORLDLY ENTREPRENEURSHIP .....	19
VI. A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP .....	22

## Chapter 2

<b>BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP ATTITUDE.....</b>	<b>35</b>
I. THE DEFINITION OF ATTITUDE .....	37
II. THE ATTITUDE OF A YOUNG BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEUR.....	40
III. HOW TO DEVELOP THE ATTITUDE OF A YOUNG BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEUR.....	44
IV. THE REWARDS OF HAVING THE ATTITUDE OF A YOUNG BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEUR .....	48

## Chapter 3

<b>BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHARACTERISTICS .....</b>	<b>61</b>
I. THE DEFINITION OF CHARACTER.....	63
II. HOW TO IDENTIFY A MONEY CHANGER .....	66
III. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A YOUNG BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEUR.....	70
IV. FIVE WAYS TO DEVELOP THE CHARACTER OF A YOUNG BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEUR .....	74

## Chapter 4

<b>HOW TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES .....</b>	<b>85</b>
I. THE DEFINITION OF OPPORTUNITIES .....	87
II. HOW TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES.....	90
III. FIVE KEY FACTS ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES .....	95

## Chapter 5

<b>HOW TO TAKE CALCULATED RISKS .....</b>	<b>105</b>
I. DEFINING CALCULATED RISKS.....	107
II. HOW TO TAKE CALCULATED RISKS.....	110
III. TWO THINGS THAT HINDER PEOPLE FROM TAKING RISKS.....	120
IV. THE SEVEN BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (BE) ADVANTAGES .....	126

## Chapter 6

### **HOW TO SOLVE PROBLEMS ..... 139**

- I. THE DEFINITION OF PROBLEM SOLVING.....141
- II. THE SEVEN BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROBLEMS .....144
- III. THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PROBLEM SOLVING .....150

## Chapter 7

### **UNDERSTANDING BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP ..... 159**

- I. THE GIFT OF DOMINION.....161
- II. THE DEFINITION OF BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP.....164
- III. GOD'S PLAN FOR BUSINESS .....169
- IV. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP .....172
- V. STEWARDSHIP VERSUS OWNERSHIP .....175
- VI. BUSINESS STEWARDS IN THE BIBLE .....178

## Chapter 8

### **UNDERSTANDING BIBLICAL PROFIT ..... 187**

- I. THE DEFINITION OF BIBLICAL PROFIT .....189
- II. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GODLY AND WORLDLY PROFIT .....192
- III. THE SIX TYPES OF UNGODLY PROFIT.....194
- IV. THE FOUR DANGERS OF UNGODLY PROFIT.....197
- V. THE TWO PRINCIPLES TO PROFITING BIBLICALLY .....201
- VI. THE FOUR PURPOSES OF BIBLICAL PROFIT .....203

## Chapter 9

### **BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP GOALS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ..... 209**

- I. THE YOUNG BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEUR AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST .....211
- II. GOALS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....214
- III. SEVEN RESPONSIBILITIES OF A YOUNG BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEUR.....220
- IV. SEVEN PRINCIPLES TO SETTING GOALS FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE.....226

# INTRODUCING BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

[ Matthew 25:21 ]

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"



In this chapter we will explore:

- ✓ The twelve principles of God's economy
- ✓ The purpose of wealth
- ✓ The definition of Biblical Entrepreneurship
- ✓ The five Principles of Biblical Entrepreneurship
- ✓ The difference between Biblical and worldly entrepreneurship
- ✓ A Biblical example of entrepreneurship



## KEY VOCABULARY

1. **BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP** – Biblical Entrepreneurship is using our talents to start a Kingdom business.
2. **BIBLICAL PROFIT** – Biblical profit is the spiritual and natural gain remaining after all costs are deducted from a business transaction or the total income of the business.
3. **BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP** – Business stewardship is taking responsibility for the natural resources God has given us and using them to serve others, while making a profit for the Kingdom of God.
4. **IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES** – In order to identify opportunities, you must recognize when you are prepared for God’s timing.
5. **KINGDOM BUSINESS** - A Kingdom business exists to honor Christ in the marketplace while fulfilling God’s purpose, measuring its success by how it impacts people, planet, profit, and paradise.
6. **PRINCIPLE** – A principle is a truth that does not change, no matter the circumstances.
7. **SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP** – Social entrepreneurs are individuals who start businesses to make a profit while making a difference in the world.
8. **SOLVE PROBLEMS** – When you solve problems, you come in agreement with the Word of God in a situation that presents a need or difficult circumstances.
9. **TAKE CALCULATED RISKS** – To take a calculated risk is to count the cost to ensure you have enough resources to start and grow a business. It includes developing a plan to make sure you have enough time, money, and information to see the idea through.
10. **TALENTS** – Talents are skills, gifts, or money that we can use to trade or start a Kingdom business.
11. **WILDERNESS** – Wilderness is life’s challenges and difficulties that God allows us to go through to prepare and perfect us to realize his plan for our lives.
12. **WORLDLY ENTREPRENEURSHIP** – Focus is on getting a whole lot of cash or making a lot of money. Though it may be done legally, it is often for selfish reasons and with little regard for whoever gets stepped on, on the way up.

# The 12 Principles of God's Economy

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.” [Matthew 25:14](#)

## The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-29, NKJV

<sup>14</sup> “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. <sup>15</sup> And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. <sup>16</sup> Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. <sup>17</sup> And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

<sup>20</sup> “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ <sup>21</sup> His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ <sup>22</sup> He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to

me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ <sup>23</sup> His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

<sup>24</sup> “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’

<sup>26</sup> “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. <sup>27</sup> So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

<sup>29</sup> ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

1. **God has given each of us talents** in the forms of gifts, skills, and treasures based on our abilities (Matthew 25:14-15).
2. **We each have a responsibility to take care of and multiply the talents God has given us**; making the most of them through trade (Matthew 25:16-17).
3. **Whenever there is trade, there must be a profit** (Matthew 25:16-17).
4. **Profit is the fruit of your industriousness in taking care of and multiplying what God has given you, not the reward** (Matthew 25:20, 22).

So when the profit does come, what are we to do with it?

- i. Save for the time of lack
  - ii. Reinvest in the business
  - iii. Fulfill God's covenant (Matthew 25:31, James 2:14-17, Deuteronomy 8:18)
    - a. Feed the hungry
    - b. Nourish the thirsty
    - c. House the stranger
    - d. Clothe the naked
    - e. Visit the sick
    - f. Visit those in prison
5. **Talents are given to be traded, not hidden** (Matthew 25:18).



6. **We will need to go before God and explain how we used our talents** (Matthew 25:19).
7. **If we take good care of the talents God has given us, our reward is more responsibility.** Doesn't sound too cool but God can and will then entrust us with more talents, skills and gifts once we have proven ourselves with what we have. We will also find that we have the joy of the Lord (Matthew 25:21).
8. **No matter how many talents you were given in the beginning, there will be an equal reward if we are faithful.** Notice that the Master's response to the servant who made five times more and the one who made three times more was exactly the same (Matthew 25:22-23).





## INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY

“God’s economy is not fair, it’s just.”

1. What do you think this statement means?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. How does a worldview of fairness vs. a worldview of justice impact a community?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. How does each worldview impact businesses and entrepreneurs?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## TAKEAWAY

Write down one key takeaway related to the principles of God's economy.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# The Purpose of Wealth

“But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.” [Deuteronomy 8:18](#)

Wealth is anything you have beyond what you need for your daily necessities (i.e. food, clothing, housing, recreation, tithe, health insurance, education, etc.). Businesses that do not create wealth will not remain successful for long, therefore Biblical Entrepreneurs must understand the purpose of wealth.

## **WHY DOES GOD ALLOW US TO HAVE MORE THEN WE NEED FOR OUR DAILY NECESSITIES?**

God allow us to have more than we need so that we can experience freedom!

Wealth removes the limitations we have in our lives and makes it possible for us to do what we really want to do. Many people desire to drive certain types of cars or live in a certain type of house, wear certain kinds of clothes, help people in a certain way or spend their time how ever they want, but they cannot do so because they do not have the freedom. It is dangerous however, to have freedom without knowing God’s true purpose for freedom. Those who do not know God’s true purpose for freedom tend to abuse their freedom or use their freedom to satisfy the lust of their flesh.

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.” [Galatians 5:13](#)

God’s true purpose for freedom is found in Moses’ interaction with Pharaoh in Exodus 8:1 and 9:1 when God commanded Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let His people go.

“Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.” **Exodus 8:1**”

Prior to their release from the bondage of Egypt, God’s people were enslaved. Like the Israelites, many Christians face a similar form of slavery because they do not have the margin to do what God wants them to do, due to their need to work to make a living. Margin is the difference between what you have and what you need. In business it can also be the difference between what you charge a customer and what they pay for your product and service. For the purpose of this discussion, we are going to use margin as the difference between the money and time you have left after you have done what you must do and what you need.

The true purpose of freedom is to worship and serve God the Creator through our time, talent and treasure. God gives us wealth so we can use our time, talent and treasure to please him and advance his will.

Should we then wait until we have wealth to worship and serve God? No.

- Wealth is created through work, and our work should be an act of worship to God.
- The word “work” in Hebrew is *Avodah*, which means “to worship, to serve.”
- If we do not worship God with our work we will not worship God with our wealth. It is all about worship; we were created to worship.
- We will either worship God or we will worship the things that God created, idolizing what God intended for our pleasure.



Whatever business or work I do must be done as an act of worship to God and in response to His call and purpose for my life.

What if I already started a work or business but did not do it as an act of worship to God? Should I change the business or type of work I'm doing?

- No, unless God directs you. Otherwise, begin to worship God in the work or business you are in now. (1 Corinthians 7:17-24)
- All of our work can be an act of worship to God, except of course, in case of ungodly products and services. (Colossians 3:17)
- Our work is worship when we do it in obedience to God's command and to fulfill His purpose.

Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts. Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them. Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord's freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ's slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings. Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

[1 Corinthians 7:18-24](#)





# What is Biblical Entrepreneurship?

“Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.” [Matthew 25:16](#)

**BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP** is using our talents to start a Kingdom business. **TALENTS** are skills, gifts, or money that we can use to trade or start a kingdom business.

## HOW DO YOU DEFINE A KINGDOM BUSINESS?

The 1980's was a season of greed where it was about making as much money as you can. In the 1990's many entrepreneurs started to feel guilty about this and began to run their businesses with a desire to do good. These entrepreneurs were called social entrepreneurs.

**SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS** are individuals who start businesses to make a profit while making a difference in the world. These entrepreneurs measure their business success by something called the triple bottom line (the 3 P's - people, planet, and profit). They care about people: their customers, employees, vendors, and investors. They care about the planet, the community where they do business and the environment. They make sure they are profitable - this allows them to invest more in people and the environment.

A Kingdom business, however, sees beyond these three P's and adds an eternal perspective: paradise. Therefore, a **KINGDOM BUSINESS** measures its success by 4P's (people, planet, profit, and paradise).

A Kingdom business exists to honor Christ in the marketplace while fulfilling God's purpose. More than just taking care of people, the environment, and making a profit, Kingdom businesses ensure that it's all done with eternity in mind. Doing business with eternity in mind means operating our business in a way that pleases God. What pleases God is when more people come to



**People**



**Planet**



**Profit**



**Paradise**

know who He is and come to accept His Son as their personal Lord and Savior. To accomplish this we must run our businesses based on the Bible. We must consider the Bible in every decision we make. We must ask what the Bible says at every turn and ask how each decision will honor God. We can take care of people, we can take care of the planet, and we can make money - all that is good. But what really matters to God is when people come to know Him as their Savior, recognize Him as the creator of the planet, care for it as His stewards, make money while following His principles, and use it to fulfill His purposes.

Some cool questions to keep asking:

1. How do I serve my customers while sharing the gospel?
2. How do I interact with my vendors and the government in a way that honors the Lord?
3. How do I treat my employees in a way that God is honored?
4. How do I protect the environment while giving glory to God?
5. How do I make a profit without violating God's Word?
6. How do I invest the profit in things that fulfill His purpose?
7. How do I advance God's kingdom through my business?



## APPLICATION NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY

Do you know someone who runs a kingdom business? Find an example of a Kingdom business and explain what they do and what makes them a Kingdom business.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## TAKEAWAY

Write down one key takeaway related to the meaning of Biblical Entrepreneurship.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# The 5 Biblical Entrepreneurship Principles

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” [Matthew 7:24](#)

Every successful person builds their life on principles. Young Biblical Entrepreneurs use certain **PRINCIPLES** to start or grow a kingdom business. These principles are truths that do not change, no matter the circumstances. The principles of Biblical Entrepreneurship are:

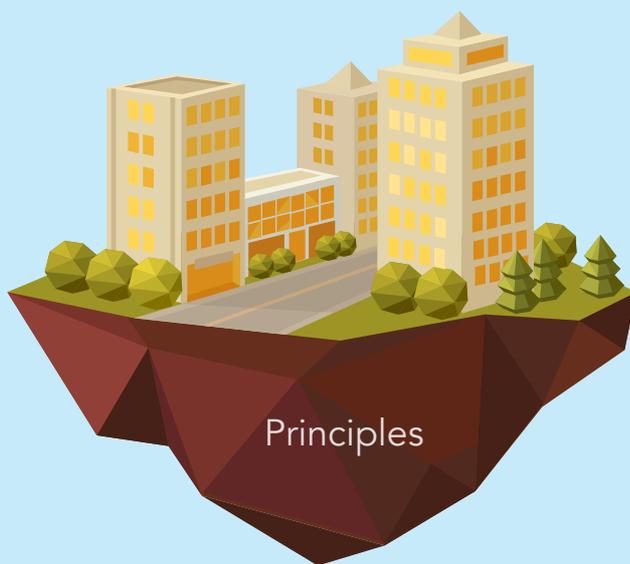
## **IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES** –

is recognizing when you are prepared for God’s timing. Successful biblical entrepreneurs start businesses they are prepared for and they make sure that they start the business when all conditions are in their favor.

## **TAKING CALCULATED RISKS** –

is counting the cost to ensure you have enough resources to start and grow a business. This includes developing a plan to make sure you have enough time, money, and information to see the idea through. With every opportunity there are risks, but successful biblical entrepreneurs develop a business plan before starting the business.

**SOLVING PROBLEMS** – is coming in agreement with the Word of God in situation that present a need or difficult circumstances. You will be faced with problems in business; you must turn to the Bible to look for the appropriate solution. When







## INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY

Select one of the Biblical Entrepreneurship principles and explain how you would use it in life and in business.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## TAKEAWAY

Write down one key takeaway related to a principle of Biblical Entrepreneurship.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

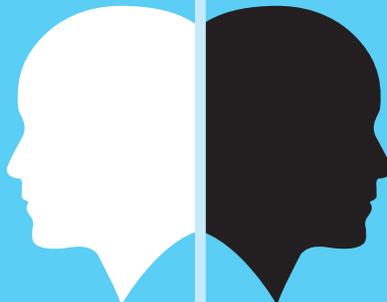
# The Difference Between Biblical Entrepreneurship and Worldly Entrepreneurship

“Do not envy the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.” [Proverbs 3:31](#)

Have you ever heard the expression,  
**“IT’S NOT PERSONAL, IT’S JUST BUSINESS?”**

This statement is usually made after a bad business deal that ends in someone getting hurt. For many people, entrepreneurship or business is a way to get a whole lot of cash. Though it may be done legally, it is often for selfish reasons and with little regard for whoever gets stepped on on the way up. Because of the cutthroat environment that is usually associated with business, many people who fear God avoid doing business all together. They think if they were to start a business, they would have to compromise their faith. However, in **BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP**, business is seen from a totally different perspective. It is about being good stewards as we learned in Matthew 25, and then using what we have produced to benefit all people and build the Kingdom of God.

**Biblical**  
entrepreneur



**Worldly**  
entrepreneur

<b>BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>WORLDLY ENTREPRENEURSHIP</b>
Use spiritual gifts and skills	↔	Uses only natural skills
Business steward	↔	Business owner
Biblical profit	↔	Worldly profit
Ideas inspired by God	↔	Self motivated
Directed by the Holy Spirit	↔	Self driven
Confidence in God	↔	Confidence in self
Motivated by love	↔	Motivated by money
Interdependent	↔	Independent
Cooperative	↔	Competitive
Calling	↔	Career
Kingdom focus	↔	Big business focus
Enjoys serving others	↔	Enjoys commanding
Follows God's methods	↔	Originates own methods



## APPLICATION NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY

Identify an example of an entrepreneur that practices worldly entrepreneurship and explain why you selected that person.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## TAKEAWAY

Write down one key takeaway regarding the difference between biblical and worldly entrepreneurship.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# A Biblical Example of Entrepreneurship

Joseph was the eleventh son of an entrepreneur named Jacob, he was a young dreamer, full of ambitions and destined for greatness. He was also arrogant and spoiled by his father. Due to his great calling and the need for God to prepare him for it, his brother's jealousy led to him going through the wilderness, or a season of difficulties.

Like Joseph, at some point in our lives as entrepreneurs, we will pass through difficult times.

Joseph had a pretty tough journey between his dream and what God had in store for his future, but he stayed faithful and in the end God rewarded him.

Let's look at the challenges Joseph faced and the lessons he learned so that we may be well prepared for our own wilderness. If you haven't read Joseph's story in awhile, or before, take a moment to read through it in Scripture first.

**WILDERNESS** is life's challenges and difficulties that God allows us to go through to prepare and perfect us to realize his plan for our lives.

## THE PIT



First, Joseph gets thrown into a pit. A pit symbolizes a hopeless place where only God's mercy could have brought him through (Genesis 37:19-36). In the pit there's no one to turn to but God. Everything and everyone we have relied upon fails us.

The lessons he learned in the pit were:

- ✓ Humility
- ✓ Dependence on God
- ✓ Learning to trust God for miracles

## SLAVERY

After the pit, Joseph's brothers decide to sell him as a slave! At this point, things are really not looking up for him, but he is in a slightly better place than he was before because slavery is better than death. Slavery is a place of bondage and servitude (Genesis 39:1-19).



The lessons he learned in slavery were:

- ✓ Stewardship
- ✓ Service
- ✓ Resisting temptation

## PRISON



After slavery, Joseph gets thrown into prison. Prison was a place where he experienced limited freedom, but he was still bound. It may not sound like it, but things are looking up a little better. Prison is a transitional place between the wilderness and greatness; it is his gateway to destiny. The prison he was put in was the same as the prison of Pharaoh's disloyal servants, there he would get his opportunity (Genesis 39:20-23, 40:1-23).

The lessons he learned in prison were:

- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Patience
- ✓ Trusting God for opportunity

## CONFRONTATION



Joseph is ultimately released from prison and becomes governor of Egypt. Now as the second most influential person in Egypt, he must confront his past and face his brothers. Since there was famine in the land of Egypt (and in that entire region of the world) and the only place where people could find food was in Egypt, his brothers had to come to Egypt to find food. As governor, Joseph was charged with the responsibility of growing, storing, and distributing food. When they met after many years of being apart, Joseph had the opportunity to confront these brothers who had hurt him. At the end of every wilderness you will have to confront the people or things that the enemy used to hurt you during the wilderness period. Joseph could have sought revenge but he chose to forgive and reunite with his brothers.

The benefits of confrontation are:

- ✓ Heal your hurt - without confrontation you will not have an internal resolve to forgive.
- ✓ Help you forgive - forgiveness is recognizing the sovereignty of God in every situation. When you forgive, you release the pain you have a tight grip on, and free your emotions from being focused on the wrongs that were done to you. You can then embrace the person or group of people with the unconditional love of Christ.
- ✓ Reveals your destiny - without forgiveness God cannot reveal your full destiny to you because you are not trustworthy. Those who have not practiced forgiveness, hurt other people. They are a recipe for disaster. Destiny is God's ultimate plan for our lives.

Like Joseph, most entrepreneurs are individuals destined for greatness but are born unprepared for it. They are dreamers, oftentimes with an unrealistic view of themselves. Many are arrogant, proud, and feel like they are the center of the universe. Their motives for being in business are usually self-centered. A common theme for many entrepreneurs is "I want to start a business so that I can be my own BOSS." They don't realize that starting a business doesn't make you a boss, but a SERVANT.

As an entrepreneur, you are God's steward, called to serve your customers and employees. Although most Christian entrepreneurs profess to believe this and practice it, a wilderness experience allows them to see what they are really made of and what they may need to deal with.

## GOING THROUGH THE WILDERNESS



All born-again believers who are called by God to carry out a great work must go through the wilderness. You have either gone through your wilderness, are going through it now, or will go through it in the future. The wilderness may look really different from one person to the other. However, like Joseph, think of the wilderness as a process designed to perfect you, not to destroy you. Allow God to use it to bring you to a state of total dependence on Him so that He may exalt you and reveal the fullness of your destiny.

If you are going through a tough time, don't be discouraged because God will use it to do amazing things in your life. Eagerly look for the lessons you could be learning from it. If you have never been through a tough time, when you face one, be prepared to see it as a learning season. Think of it as a time where God will teach you the lessons you need to learn so you can fulfill the plans He has for your life.

How Joseph Manifested the BE Principles:

- ✓ God used the pit, slavery, and imprisonment to prepare Joseph for the time he would become steward over Egypt (Genesis 37:12-27, 39: 1-23, 40:1-23).
- ✓ Joseph developed a plan to make sure he had what it took to successfully meet the needs of the people of Egypt in the time of famine (Genesis 41: 46-57).
- ✓ Joseph came in agreement with the Word of God whenever he faced difficulty in Egypt (Genesis 41:14-16).
- ✓ Joseph owned nothing, but was merely a steward over everything in the land of Egypt (Genesis 47:13-26).
- ✓ Joseph received God's favor through his obedience and his natural needs were met while he was in Egypt because of his wise stewardship (Genesis 45:9-28).

Your ultimate destiny is not your business or the job you have; those are merely instruments that God uses to help you fulfill your destiny. Your destiny depends on how you use whatever God has blessed you with to walk in obedience to His Word and to be a witness for Him in the marketplace. The results should be that more souls come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior through your witness and business.

It doesn't matter to the Lord what type of business you start or even if you start one. He is concerned with whether or not you have used the talents He gave you profitably, because His instructions are "do business till I come" (Luke 19:13), for He is coming back.

**"But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."**

**Deuteronomy 8:18**





## INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY

Identify another character in the Bible that serves as an example of a Biblical Entrepreneur and explain what makes them a Biblical Entrepreneur.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## TAKEAWAY

Write down one key takeaway about Joseph's story.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# How I Became a Biblical Entrepreneur

## The Author's Story

At 18 years old, I was faced with a family crisis and was unable to afford college, forcing me to drop out. I was stuck with a dead end job where I was earning \$5.50 an hour. I was working full time but had no sense of direction. All the years of not applying myself and taking things for granted had caught up with me. One day during a lunch break, as I looked around and realized that no one at my job liked their jobs, I began to reflect upon my own circumstance. I was the youngest person working full time, with colleagues who were much older than me. I hated the thought of working at the assembly line of a hospital cafeteria and serving food for the rest of my life. Most of my friends were in college.

At that very moment I asked myself the question: if I could do anything with my life, and I knew I could not fail, what would it be? The answer that came back to me was: business.

I loved business and always wanted to start my own business. I had watched my mother run several businesses and employ more than 1,000 people. I saw the freedom she had, the opportunities she gave to many people, and how she helped them. I was inspired by the idea of one day doing the same thing.

But due to my life of privilege, I took life for granted, was undisciplined, and lacked work ethic. I did not apply myself. I did not do well in school. Now I would pay for it, because everything had changed. No more money, no more privilege, and no more looking to mom to bail me out. I called my mother and asked for permission to start my own business, gave my job two-weeks notice, and began my journey as an entrepreneur. My vision was to become a millionaire by the time I was 25 years old. I convinced my best friend, Gina, who is now my wife to join me, promising her that we would both become millionaires.



At this time I was not a Christian so I was not yet a biblical entrepreneur... but that would soon change. While in business, I would meet a Christian businessman who took his faith seriously and used his business influence as a platform to share the gospel with others. In December of 1994, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior at a men's retreat hosted by the church of the Christian businessman who had become my mentor.

One year after becoming a Christian, God would give me a vision to use entrepreneurship as a tool to empower the body of Christ and seek and save the lost. This would become the basis for everything I did going forward. Based on this vision I would change everything I was doing into a Kingdom business. I was now not just doing business to get out of a dead end job and become a millionaire but in order to fulfill God's plan for my life and glorify Jesus Christ.

## Discussion questions

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | What caused Patrice to end up in a dead end job?  |
| 2 | What was Patrice's initial vision when he first became an entrepreneur?                             |
| 3 | What changed that vision?   |
| 4 | What was his new vision?  |
| 5 | What gave Patrice the idea that he could start a business?  |
| 6 | What could he have done early in life to be better prepared for the crisis his family went through? |
| 7 | What else could he have done other than starting his own business?                                  |
| 8 | What would you have done if you were Patrice and faced a similar situation?                         |



Biblical Entrepreneurship is using our talents to start a Kingdom business, so that we can benefit people and the planet, earn profit, and prioritize paradise. The story of Joseph shows us how to manage what is not ours and receive God's favor as we go about His business. We see how he used the Biblical Entrepreneurship principles to solve the famine crisis in Egypt and recognize the difference between biblical and worldly entrepreneurship.



Please answer the following questions:

1. Read Matthew 25:14-30 and explain the story in your own words.
2. List the five Biblical Entrepreneurship principles.
3. What are the four P's of a Kingdom business?
4. How do you think a worldly approach to entrepreneurship has impacted society? Give examples.
5. Using two columns, list the biblical and the corresponding worldly characteristics of Biblical Entrepreneurship.
6. How did Joseph use the five Biblical Entrepreneurship principles while in Egypt?
7. What is the purpose of the wilderness experience in the life of the believer?



## BE VOCABULARY

Define the following words or phrases:

1. Biblical Entrepreneurship
2. Principle
3. Identify Opportunities
4. Take Calculated Risks
5. Solve Problems
6. Business Stewardship
7. Biblical Profit
8. Wilderness
9. Kingdom Business
10. Talents
11. Social Entrepreneurship
12. Worldly Entrepreneurship



## GROUP WORK

Read Genesis 47:13-26.

Was Joseph fair in how he dealt with the famine? Why or Why not? What would you have done in his place?



## BE SCRIPTURES

In pairs, memorize these Scriptures:

“And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt.” [Genesis 41:33](#)

“Do not envy the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.” [Proverbs 3:31](#)

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.” [Matthew 25:14](#)

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’” [Matthew 25:21](#)



## BE APPLICATION

1. Make a list of 2 to 3 talents you believe God has given you.
2. Have you ever thought about starting a business? Why? Why Not?
3. If you were going to start a business today, what would you do differently than before you took this lesson?
4. Read the story of Joseph and explain Joseph’s wilderness; how was he tested, tried and tempted?
5. Reflect upon your own life and ask yourself whether or not you have had a wilderness experience? If so, what was it and what lesson did you learn from it? If not, how do you often feel when you hear about others’ wilderness experiences?

Identify three people that you will share the concept of kingdom business with and challenge them to seek first the kingdom of God through their business. Write down their first names:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# Young Biblical Entrepreneurship II

## *Practices for the Young Biblical Entrepreneur*

**You made him ruler over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under his feet. – Psalm 8:6**

Practices for the Young Biblical Entrepreneur (YBE II) is the second of a three part transformational youth business course of the Young Biblical Entrepreneurship Certificate program. The training provides a strong mix of core business concepts and biblical principles. The topics addressed in the course include:

CHAPTER 1: Biblical Economics

CHAPTER 2: Aligning Your Business Idea with Your Calling

CHAPTER 3: Biblical Inventions and Innovations

CHAPTER 4: Counting the Costs of Starting a Kingdom Business

CHAPTER 5: Understanding Kingdom Business Planning

CHAPTER 6: Understanding Financial Statements

CHAPTER 7: Biblical Marketing and Sales

CHAPTER 8: Performing Market Research

CHAPTER 9: Organizing Your Business

CHAPTER 10: Financing a Kingdom Business

CHAPTER 11: Biblical Management

CHAPTER 12: Kingdom Philanthropy

# Young Biblical Entrepreneurship III (YBE III)

## *Planning a Kingdom Business*

**Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. – Habakkuk 2:2**

Planning a Kingdom Business (YBE III) is the third and final course in the Young Biblical Entrepreneurship Certificate Program. This course help students in developing a comprehensive biblically based operational plan as well as a summary plan which they use to defend their business before a panel of judges. Topics covered in this course include:

CHAPTER 1: How to Develop a Kingdom Business Plan

CHAPTER 2: Strategic Operational Plan Overview

CHAPTER 3: Executive Summary

CHAPTER 4: What Was - Calling & Experiences

CHAPTER 4: What Is: Description of Company

CHAPTER 5: What Is: Kingdom & Community Impact

CHAPTER 6: What Is: Industry Analysis

CHAPTER 7: What Is: Market Analysis

CHAPTER 8: What Is: Description of Products & Services

CHAPTER 9: What Is: Marketing & Sales Plan

CHAPTER 10: What Is: Management & Administration

CHAPTER 11: What Is: Operational Plan

CHAPTER 12: What Is: Financial Plan

CHAPTER 13: What Is: Key Performance Indicators

CHAPTER 14: What Is To Come

CHAPTER 15: Vision & Long-Term Goals

CHAPTER 16: What Is To Come

CHAPTER 17: Succession & Exit Strategy

CHAPTER 18: Statement Of Faith

CHAPTER 19: Developing A Summary Business Plan

CHAPTER 20: Presenting A Summary Business Plan

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

# PATRICE TSAGUE



Patrice Tsague is a Christian business trainer, entrepreneur, international speaker, preacher, author, business coach. Patrice specializes in helping families incorporate their faith into their business practices, ensuring that their businesses are able to exist beyond the third generation.

Patrice is the co-founder and Chief Servant Officer of both Nehemiah Project International Ministries and PG & Associates, LLC, which he

founded with his wife and best friend, Gina Tsague. Patrice is also the co-founder of Nehemiah Enterprise Coaching as well as Kingdom Business Coaching International. Through these organizations, Patrice and Gina are committed to building kingdom businesses around the world. Through Nehemiah Project International Ministries and PG & Associates, LLC, Patrice has trained and coached over 7,000 individuals on how to start or expand their businesses using Christian business training and coaching principles found in the Bible.

Patrice has authored several books and serves on several boards including The Timothy Plan and Cornerstone Christian Academy in Vancouver, Washington. Patrice and Gina have two beautiful children, Gabrielle and Danielle Tsague. The Tsague family resides in Vancouver, Washington.



## ABOUT NEHEMIAH PROJECT

### OUR MISSION

To build and equip Kingdom businesses globally.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

A black icon of a graduation cap (mortarboard) is centered at the top of the box.

**Entrepreneurship  
Training**

Nehemiah  
Entrepreneurship  
Institute

A black icon of two overlapping speech bubbles is centered at the top of the box.

**Coaching  
& Support**

Kingdom Business  
Coaching

A black icon of two stylized human figures with a plus sign between them is centered at the top of the box.

**Access to  
Capital**

Nehemiah  
E-Community

### IMPACT

To date Nehemiah Project International Ministries has trained and supported over 18,000 entrepreneurs in 22 countries around the world in Africa, Australia, Asia, Europe, and North America.

For more information, visit our website: [nehemiahproject.org](http://nehemiahproject.org)

## NEHEMIAH ENTREPRENEURSHIP INSTITUTE

The Nehemiah Entrepreneurship Institute (NEI) offers entrepreneurs access to world-class content through a network of partners and a convenient, easy-to-manage online platform.

### OUR COURSES



For more information, visit our website: [nehemiahproject.org](http://nehemiahproject.org)



Kingdom Business Coaching™ (KBC) is the sister company of Nehemiah Project that provides support to Nehemiah alumni as well as small to medium sized companies. KBC is an international business coaching and consulting practice that uses a proactive 360-degree coaching approach with various strategic tools and experienced coaches to help clients achieve the following objectives: build healthy God-honoring families and relationships, build Kingdom companies that aligns with their values, grow their top and bottom line with Kingdom impact.

## OUR MISSION

Helping Kingdom companies achieve transformational results.

## OUR SERVICES



For more information or to schedule a free initial consultation, visit our website: [kingdombizcoaching.com](http://kingdombizcoaching.com)

# NEHEMIAH E-COMMUNITY

Connecting Biblical Entrepreneurs to resources, and investors to Kingdom impact opportunities.

The Nehemiah Entrepreneurship Community (E-Community™) is a comprehensive and robust online membership platform. The E-Community™ provides entrepreneurs with quality online biblically-integrated business training, group coaching, and opportunities to connect and network with other Biblical Entrepreneurs from around the world who share their values. The E-Community™ also provides members a marketplace to distribute their products globally, and allows access to investors through a Global Kingdom Investors Network. The E-Community™ is a safe, shared-value, high-impact network of investors and entrepreneurs who are providing innovative products and services, and are contributing to the transformation of communities and nations.





Equip entrepreneurs for success with access to discounted, free and comprehensive, biblically-integrated business courses



Move businesses from profitability to succession through free, transformative, group business coaching, and discounted customized coaching



Eliminate business isolation by connecting members to other entrepreneurs from around the world who share their values



Help businesses increase sales by featuring member businesses in an online business directory, and their products in an online marketplace



Provide investors with global access to quality deal flow investment opportunities with returns, as well as kingdom impact



Help entrepreneurs raise capital to start and expand their business by connecting them to Kingdom Impact Investors through the Global Kingdom Investors Network



Give Nehemiah program partners access to the most up-to-date, comprehensive resources

For more information, visit: [nehemiahproject.org/ecommunity](https://nehemiahproject.org/ecommunity)

LEARN

COACHING

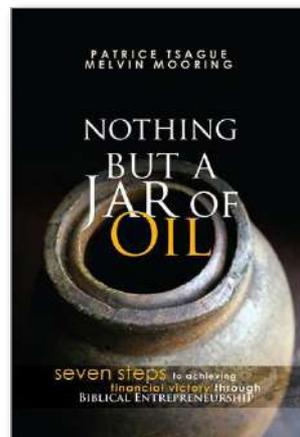
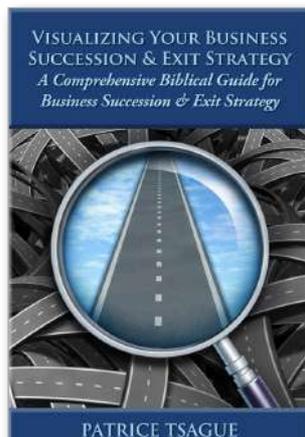
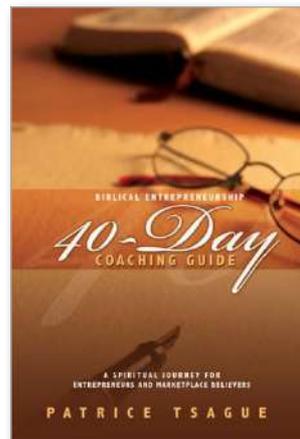
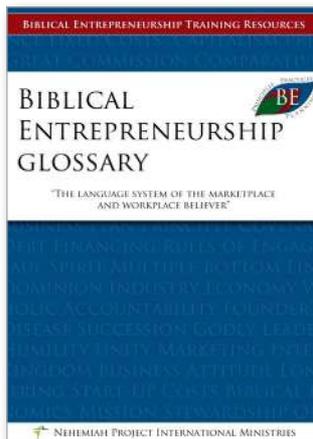
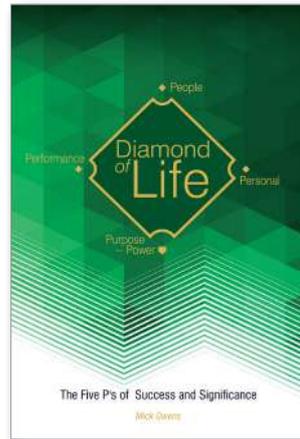
CONNECT

COMMERCE

ACCESS FINANCING

## Other Resources

To order your copy, visit [store.nehemiahproject.org](http://store.nehemiahproject.org)



# PRINCIPLES FOR THE YOUNG BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEUR

**THE YOUNG BIBLICAL ENTREPRENEUR I (YBE I)** teaches teens how to identify opportunities, take calculated risks, solve problems, exercise stewardship over a business for biblical profit, while developing a Christ-centered character and attitude. The program prepares teens and young adults ages 12 to 18 for real world business challenges by teaching them the value of work and industry from a biblical worldview.

According to the **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**, nearly *“80 percent of would-be entrepreneurs in the United States are between the ages of 18 and 34.”*

A 2005 poll from **JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT (JA)** found that 68.6 percent of the teenagers interviewed wanted to become entrepreneurs, even though they knew that it would not be an easy path. In spite of this overwhelming interest, however, youth rarely receive any information about entrepreneurship as a career option.