

## Lesson 5-1 Robert

1. Let's take a look at a fictitious character named Robert. He is 18 years old and has had to drop out of school at 14 due to financial problems at home. He is a Christian and attends church. He lost his father several years ago and has had to help his mother with the household and making enough money to eat by doing odd jobs in the neighborhood. He has his whole life before him and has to make many decisions. Some day he would like to marry, have a good job, provide for his family, make some contribution to the Kingdom of God, and make a trip around the world. Can he achieve these goals?

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How?

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2. Of the following attributes, which are the most likely to give overall success in Robert's life (both spiritually and secularly):

- a. Education
- b. Honesty
- c. Attitude
- d. Heritage
- e. Time spent in the Bible
- f. Connections
- g. Wife
- h. Church Life
- i. Social graces and manners
- j. Knowledge
- k. Personality
- l. Talents

Each student in the class should rank these attributes in importance (1 most important - 12 least important) and then take

a few minutes to justify his/her ranking before the rest of the class.

3. Take the list in item 2 and pick the attribute you think would hurt Robert's success the most if he is lacking in it?

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4. Does God want Robert to succeed in worldly matters? He wants to get married, have a family, supply their needs, have a good job, and contribute to the Kingdom of God. Do you think it is God's will for him?

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5. Are you sure?

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6. How can Robert be sure his goals are pleasing to God and in His will?

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7. Considering the list of item 2. which attributes does Robert not have control over?

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8. How can Robert improve his education if he can't afford to go back to school?

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9. How can Robert improve his honesty?

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10. How can Robert improve his attitude?

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11. How can Robert spend time in the Bible consistently without giving up?

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12. How can Robert acquire good connections?

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13. How can Robert get a good wife?

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14. How can Robert find the right church for him?

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15. How can Robert improve his social graces and manners?

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16. How can Robert build his knowledge?

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17. The Bible states that it is the job of the Holy Spirit to teach you all things (John 14:26). Does this also mean secular things?

**John 14:26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (ESV- words of Jesus in red)

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18. How can the Holy Spirit teach you social graces?

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19. Do you know the voice of the Holy Spirit?

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20. How can you hear and understand the Holy Spirit?

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21. Does Robert improve himself by playing video games?

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22. If Robert smokes marijuana or takes other drugs, how will it affect his goals?

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Verse to write on your heart:

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,  
2 Timothy 3:17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (KJV)

23. In your own words what does this scripture mean?

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24. Is raising a family a good work? How about having a job?

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25. Can a Christian follow Biblical principles and still be successful in the secular world?

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26. what are your goals?

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27. Do you have a plan to achieve these goals? If so, what is it?

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28. what do you consider success?

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This is the first lesson in the series and future lessons that follow Robert's life path that show his successes and failures. We will all learn from Robert. The answers to the above questions are not necessarily right or wrong; they are designed to make one think and begin the quest for success.

Note: Many of the above questions are difficult and will take a life time to answer; however, the purpose of these lessons to start thinking about and discussing these issues. Being successful takes thinking, work, and above all staying close to God.