

Lesson 5-5 Robert Interests - Education

1. Robert is thrilled that the coffee problem at the factory has been turned into a tremendous success. Who should get the credit for this success? Before you answer, review who was involved with the process.

2. Then Uncle Leo told Robert that just because Robert had success with the coffee problem, he shouldn't stop improving it or his other duties. Then Leo gave Robert another secret to success:

12. Continual Improvement

3. So, Robert responds, "how could we possibly improve the coffee system?" Uncle Leo responds, "let's spend a little more effort in the evenings and see what we can come up with: Just the three of us (Robert, Uncle Leo, and the Holy Spirit)." How will they know that the Holy Spirit is with them? How do you know when the Holy Spirit is guiding you?

(Note: lesson 1-2 "Accessing the Truth" deals with this question.)

4. They spend three evenings and come up with three ideas:

(a) Have the night watchman plug in the coffee pots one half hour before the employees arrive for work.

(b) Give the premium coffee a catchy name, something that makes those drinking it feel important.

(c) Knowing that there will be some who would consider not paying, post a sign that says:

Premium coffee 10 cents per cup (Honor system)

Honesty is a gift that man gives himself

5. Now Robert was so happy he had learned about continual improvement and told Uncle Leo that now he has confidence that he (Robert) could solve any problem and that there were no

limits to his success. It appears that Robert feels that he is done learning. Do you think that Robert should just be content with what he has already learned? Is Leo going too fast and being too much of a perfectionist?

6. Robert has trouble sleeping at night; he is so anxious to go to work. He loves watching people take his coffee and looking at his sign about honesty. He also sees opportunities to improve his other work related responsibilities. And he believes, for the first time in his life, that he is helping people by being a positive influence with his sign. Is he? To what extent?

7. Continuing with the life of Robert, he now has a good job making \$100 (FD) per week. Robert has made some investments: shoes, new clothes, some hip-hop CDs, and a video game player. Uncle Leo is concerned that Robert spends too much time in his room listening to loud music and playing the video games. Leo is also worried about the neighbors having to listen to Robert's hip-hop. What should Uncle Leo do about this "problem?" Can Uncle Leo use it for good?

8. Uncle Leo says to Robert that he is concerned about all the time Robert spends with his game box and how the loud music may be objectionable to the neighbors. However, Robert values his free time and independence in his room. With whom do you agree, Robert or Uncle Leo? Why?

9. Robert feels that Uncle Leo is being unfair; he loves to play his game box and listen to his hip-hop music. Robert is now making his own money and, in his eyes, is already successful. What are Robert's options?

10. Robert considers moving out, but apartments are expensive. However, if he gets his own apartment, he will be independent and do as he likes. In your opinion is he ready?

11. After a few days of letting Robert sulk, Uncle Leo tells Robert that Robert's mother has entrusted Robert's future to Uncle Leo and that Uncle Leo intends to fulfill that responsibility. Therefore Uncle Leo gives Robert two more secrets to success:

13. Broaden your interests.

14. Self educate continuously throughout your life.

12. Uncle Leo suggests that Robert (a) Use headphones when listening to music; (b) Limit his game time to half an hour per night; (c) Invests some time listening to various kinds of music; and (d) Read one book per month - educational type books like biographies, histories, and books on how things work.

Robert loves his game box, hates to read, and doesn't want to listen to "old people" music. Whose side are you on? Why?

13. Now Robert has decided to move out; he believes that he is already a success and wants his independence. He looks for an apartment and finds one that is affordable, but would take most his money each month. Could this apartment be Robert's downfall? How?

14. Just before signing the lease, Robert realized that he should, at least, talk to Uncle Leo about secrets 13 and 14. Secrets 1-12 worked so well that he needs to give 13 and 14 a chance. What would you do?

15. That evening Robert and Uncle Leo talk. Leo reveals to Robert that when he was a young man he heard a sermon on broadening one's interests and the focal scripture was:

I am become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some. (1 Corinthians 9:22 ASV)

Many years ago Uncle Leo decided to broaden his interests and self educate so that he could become "all things to all men" and fit into any group whether it business, social, or spiritual. Uncle Leo became very evangelistic and likes to "work in the Lord's vineyard."

16. Break up into small groups and review the following secrets to success and see if and how they would apply to ministry and marriage/family (put a check in the box if they apply):

Ministry	Marriage/Family	Secrets to Success
		Keep a positive attitude. (Romans 5:1-2)
		Be faithful/reliable. (1 Samuel 12:24)
		Trust in God for help and guidance in all things. (Proverbs 3:5)
		Problems are many times opportunities. (Genesis 50:20; James 1:2-4))
		Develop a technique for problem solving and turning problems into opportunities. (John 14:26)
		Pray for guidance on everything - document in a book. (Psalms 1-150)
		Give attention to details. (Acts 6:1-6)
		Continue to improve (Acts 6:1-6)
		Broaden your interests. (1 Corinthians 9:22)
		Self-educate continuously throughout your life. (Romans 1:13)

In the next lesson we will see how secrets 13 and 14 affect Robert's decision and his quest for success.