

SEE THE WORLD >> SUCCESS

INTRODUCTION

How do you define success? Your definition of success determines the direction of your life. One major pitfall is common to all of us when defining success.

USING THIS GUIDE

1. Print a copy of the guide for each member of your group.
 2. Watch the video as a group and use the guide to follow along and take notes.
 3. Complete the discussion questions when prompted by the video.
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PART I

VIDEO NOTES

What is your definition of **success**?

Your definition of success will determine the **direction** of your life.

Your definition of success will determine what you **sacrifice**.

How **should** we define success?

Defining success with a “not”: “I do **not** want to be like him.”

Defining success with a **not** was not helping **find** success.

*Then the man who had received **one** bag of gold came. “Master,” he said, “I knew that you are a **hard man**, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So **I was afraid** and went out and hid your gold in the ground . . . Matthew 25:24-25*

He was so worried about **not** losing it that it prevented him from **doing** anything with it.

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Not be poor
Not get divorced
Not have an affair
Not be single
Not disappoint my dad
Not be like my mother
Not be unsuccessful
Not be _____

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
BEGIN ON THE NEXT PAGE**



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. According to culture, how is “success” defined? What is considered successful at work? At home? Among your peers?
2. How was success defined in your home growing up? What was celebrated?
3. Take a minute to identify some “not” statements that hit close to home for you. If you feel comfortable, share your thoughts with the group.

- I will not be like my mother/father.
- I will not disappoint my mom/dad.
- I will not parent my children that way.
- I will not be single for the rest of my life.
- I will not get a divorce.
- I will not trust anyone.
- I will not prioritize my career over my family.
- I will not be poor.
- Other: _____

4. Adam says our “not” statements often come from a place of hurt or disappointment. Based on your answers to question three, where might your “not” statements have originated? Do you have a specific memory you’d be willing to share?
5. Even though Adam had wanted to work for a church since he was young, he decided he would not do it since his dad also worked for a church. Like Adam was doing, how might you be choosing to let a “not” statement hold you back?
6. Read Matthew 25:24-25 and answer the question that follows.

Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. “Master . . . I knew that you are a hard man . . . So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground.”

The servant failed to be a successful investor like the other two servants since he was controlled and motivated by fear. Based on one of the “not” statements you checked, what is something you are afraid of? (*Example: I’m afraid I will become like my father.*)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE**



7. Rather than letting fear motivate you, how can you be successful right now with what God has given you? Use the following statements as a starting point to developing your personal success statement. If you feel comfortable, share with the group and continue to think about the idea this week.

- I will be the unique person God created me to be.
(Opposite = I will not be like my mother/father.)
- I will be confident that God is patient when I make mistakes.
(Opposite = I will not disappoint my mom/dad.)
- I will raise my children to feel safe and loved.
(Opposite = I will not parent my children that way.)
- I will choose to live a full life, whether I'm married or not.
(Opposite = I will not be single for the rest of my life.)
- I will choose to love and value my spouse every day.
(Opposite = I will not get a divorce.)
- I will place my trust in God because he is faithful and trustworthy.
(Opposite = I will not trust anyone.)
- I will prioritize my family over my job.
(Opposite = I will not prioritize my career over my family.)
- I will work hard and remember that God is the giver of all things.
(Opposite = I will not be poor.)
- Other: _____

THIS WEEK . . .

Jot down or snap a picture of this bottom line. Look at it as a reminder that God wants you to be successful by not letting fear own or control you. He wants great things for you.

**DEFINING SUCCESS WITH A
'NOT' MIGHT KEEP YOU FROM
SOMETHING BAD, BUT IT WILL
DEFINITELY KEEP YOU FROM
SOMETHING GREAT.**