
PILOT PROJECT

Life Formation Through *Responsible Work.*

Parent Overview · Coming Fall 2026

Why I Felt Called to Build This:

The conditions behind Pilot Project, before it was a curriculum.

I grew up homeschooled myself, one of five boys, and a pastor's kid. Calling and vocation weren't abstract ideas in our house. They came up over dinner all the time.

That hit home even more when Dad, after more than twenty years in pastoral ministry, stepped out of the pulpit and into vocational ministry in the business world. Watching him build both, guided by vocation and calling instead of just career and hobby, shaped how I think about work more than anything else has.

Dad often pointed us back to the Great Commission. Most of us read "go, make disciples of all nations" and hear a call to go somewhere else: overseas, into missions, into pastoral ministry. That is a real and important calling. But Dad would point to the Greek and show us it actually reads more like "as you are going." The command is to make disciples. Going is just assumed, the situation you are already in. Most of us tend to wait for some special calling. But God's design is for us to reflect His Kingdom right where we already are, starting now.

That is actually where this program's name comes from. In one sense, we all have the opportunity to be the pilot project of that Kingdom, a small, real demonstration of what it looks like when ordinary work becomes sacred ground instead of a detour from it. In the more ordinary sense, a pilot project is just someone's first venture, a trial run before whatever comes next. Both meanings are true here, and neither works without the other. Every time a student prices their work honestly, shows up when they said they would, or treats a customer well, that is a small, concrete answer to the prayer Jesus gave us in the Sermon on the Mount: "your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

That conviction only got stronger over sixteen years in business banking at JPMorgan Chase, where I worked closely with thousands of business and nonprofit leaders ranging from early-stage startups to organizations doing twenty million dollars a year. Across all of them, one pattern held. It was almost never about talent. It was about character: the ones who told the truth about their numbers, showed up when they said they would, and treated every customer and employee like a person instead of a transaction. Those were the ones still standing years later.

Now my amazing wife and I are homeschooling our own kids, and I keep wrestling with a question: how do we effectively build and encourage that kind of character in our children, on purpose, before the stakes get a lot higher?

Pilot Project is my attempt at an answer. It is not a curriculum I found somewhere and adapted. It is the one that most resonates with my own background and experience, so I built it instead, for my own kids, with plenty of room for yours.

Robbie Hughes

Founder, Pilot Project

WHAT PILOT PROJECT IS

A Formation and Venture Curriculum

For homeschool high school students, ages 14 to 18.

Over one semester, your student will choose a real service category, build an actual offer, and learn to run it with the discipline and integrity of someone who takes their word seriously.

The business is just the backdrop. The formation is the real point.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Level	High School Elective, Grades 9 to 12 (Ages 14 to 18)
Format	Live cohort, facilitator-led and workbook-driven
Duration	12 weekly sessions, one semester
Session Length	75 to 90 minutes
Cohort Size	6 to 10 students
Materials	Course workbook and four-book bundle, provided
Start	Coming Fall 2026

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WEEKLY SESSIONS	REAL OUTCOMES	BOOKS TO KEEP	SEMESTER OF FORMATION

The Marketplace Is Not a Compromise.

It is a God given assignment!

The true story of the world begins with a creator God with His hands in the dirt. Genesis places work in the garden before sin ever enters the story. It was never the curse. It was the gift, and the assignment.

That conviction sits underneath everything here. Work is not something to endure until real life begins. It is one of the clearest places a young person's character gets built, and revealed, whether anyone is watching or not.

Five things anchor that formation throughout the semester: Truth, in how a student represents their work. Beauty, in the standard they hold themselves to. Justice, in how they treat every customer. Stewardship, in what they do with what they have been given. And Dignity, seeing the person on the other side of every job as someone who matters.

We are not just forming lawn care technicians or dog walkers, we are forming the kind of people who can be given real responsibility, in any field, and be trusted to be faithful with it.

This is the inheritance we are passing forward.

Whatever They Become

This is so much more than a business class.

Some students will finish this semester and set the work down for good. That would be a complete success. The character built here travels with them into whatever comes next: medicine, ministry, a trade, a classroom, a family of their own.

Others will discover something different: a real foothold. Reputable home service businesses are one of the most reliable paths to real income for a young person, and the strongest ones grow into multi-crew, multi-family, even commercial operations. For students who want to keep building, Semester 2, Spring Launch, is where it becomes real: actual customers, actual money, actual growth.

Either way, the formation is the same. This is so much more than a business class.

WHEREVER THIS LEADS

The Physician or Nurse	A diagnosis delivered late, or a bill explained poorly, damages trust the same way a missed appointment does.
The Pastor or Missionary	Faithfulness in small, unnoticed obligations is the substance of a call, not just a preface to it.
The Engineer or Tradesman	Pricing honestly and correcting imperfect work is a daily test of true integrity, not just a marketing slogan.
The Teacher	A classroom, like a customer base, is won or lost by whether people believe you will do what you said.
The Mother or Father	A household runs on someone who keeps their word without needing to be reminded.
The Entrepreneur	Gets more than a running start. Some of these ventures grow well past this semester, and that path is real too.

The Four Outcomes

Real deliverables a student can show a parent, a customer, or a future employer.

O1	Defined Service Offering	A written description of what they do, what it costs, and how they deliver it, in a format they could hand to a potential customer today.
O2	Basic Operating System	A functional set of tools for scheduling jobs, communicating with customers, tracking income and expenses, and maintaining quality standards.
O3	Launch-Ready Presentation	A 10 to 15 minute presentation to the cohort and parents, covering offer, pricing, target customer, and first client acquisition plan.
O4	Written Vocational Statement	A personal document answering who they are, what work they are drawn toward, why it matters beyond income, and how they intend to carry themselves faithfully.

WHAT THEY CAN BUILD

The Four Service Categories

Students choose a category at Session 3 and define their specific offer within it.

01	Exterior Property Services <i>Working with hands, outdoors, on a schedule</i>	A FEW DIRECTIONS Lawn care and mowing, weeding, pressure washing, window cleaning, gutter clearing, trash bin cleaning, holiday lighting installation, leaf removal, mulching and light landscaping, seasonal yard cleanup
02	Mobile Detail and Vehicle Care <i>Precision, care, and pride in the finished product</i>	A FEW DIRECTIONS Car detailing, interior and exterior, boat and watercraft cleaning, fleet vehicle washing, RV and camper cleaning, motorcycle detailing
03	People and Pet Care Services <i>Relationship, trust, and consistency over time</i>	A FEW DIRECTIONS Dog walking and pet sitting, pet waste service, house sitting, senior companionship, mother's helper and childcare support, academic tutoring, music lesson instruction, errand running
04	Home, Domestic, and Creative Services <i>Organization, craft, and everyday care done well</i>	A FEW DIRECTIONS Home organizing and decluttering, closet and garage systems, baked goods and a home bakery, meal prep for busy families, plant care and watering routes, light seasonal decorating

IS THIS PROGRAM RIGHT FOR YOUR STUDENT?

Who This Is For

Formation happens through responsibility.

This curriculum best fits families who believe responsibility forms character, and who want their student to enter whatever comes next, college, a trade, ministry, a business of their own, already practiced in doing real work well.

WORKS BEST FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE

- Between the ages of 14 and 18, in a homeschool environment
- Willing to commit to weekly sessions and between-session work
- Ready to engage real customers before the semester ends
- Supported by a parent who takes the program seriously alongside them

NOT THE RIGHT FIT

This isn't a fit for a light elective, a purely academic business course, or a student who isn't ready to do real work in the real world. It asks for initiative and a willingness to be uncomfortable. That's by design.

NEXT STEPS

How to Express Interest

Pilot Project's inaugural cohort is small by design.

This is the season we wish every young person had the chance to walk through. We would be glad to have your student walk through it with us.

GETTING STARTED

Pilot Project's inaugural cohort is small by design. If this resonates, we would welcome a brief conversation before extending an enrollment invitation.

Please complete the Pilot Project intake form at pilotprojectcurriculum.com