

# ***Economics: A Christian Worldview. The Invention Problem***

## **TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY**

### **Purpose**

To show that new inventions require savings before production can begin.

### **Prep**

Print this instruction page (no handouts today; do this as a class).

### **Time**

12-15 minutes

### **Instructions**

1. Tell the class: “Imagine you invent a machine that could make farmers’ work much easier. But having the idea is only the beginning.”

2. Read this scenario aloud:

*You invent a robot **that automatically picks ripe strawberries** without damaging them. Farmers want it, but the robot **does not exist yet**.*

3. Ask students these questions (if you want/have time, write their answers on the board):

#### **Why can’t you immediately start producing thousands of robots?**

*Some answers might be: You don’t have robots (!), you need a factory to produce them, you need money to pay employees, you need engineers to build and test them, you need parts to build them, etc.*

#### **List three things you would need to pay for before selling the robot.**

*AWV, but it should be interesting to hear students’ answers!*

#### **Where would the money to buy those things most likely come from?**

*Possible answers: your savings, investors who saved money, bank loans from deposited savings, etc.*

#### **If no one had saved money beforehand, what problem would you face?**

*You would not be able to hire workers or buy materials, so the invention could not be developed.*

#### **What is the main lesson of this scenario?**

*AWV, but it should be something like “savings allow investment in new inventions, machines, and technologies that improve lives for the public.”*

### **Closing Question**

Come up with two ways that society would be harmed if people spent every single penny they earned instead of saving, and write these down. (Give students 3-5 minutes, then ask for volunteers.)