

Ultimate *Gifts*

Gift of Problems



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ACTIVITY 5: THE GIFT OF PROBLEMS

Problems can be avoided by exercising good judgement. Good judgement can be gained by experiencing life's problems.

Problem	Lesson or something to gain
A young person has a rare form on cancer. She spends her special day in the playground, instead of travelling somewhere else	
Somebody lost his job and trying to make money by doing odd jobs	
An older man is dealing with the tragedy of his wife's death	
Somebody decide to cheat during an exam and are caught by the teacher and must now face the consequences	
A close friend of yours are a victim of a terrible car hi jacking	
You have applied for several jobs, but did not get any job offer. You are incredibly disappointed and do not know what to do right now	
A real problem or obstacles that you are encountering right now	

- Struggles are necessary steps towards self-growth
- Human beings cannot live in a vacuum forever
- A bird must struggle in order to emerge from the eggshell
- If we are not allowed to deal with small problems, we will be destroyed by slightly larger ones
- When we come to understand this fact, we live our lives not avoiding problems, but welcoming them as challenges that will strengthen us so that we can be victorious in the future

Moral decision making is crucial

Moral decision making is crucially important for developing morality. Therefore learners should be led to make increasingly wise and unselfish decisions. We must help them to make ethical decisions

Character is built, not born. We constantly create our character by the choices we make because good and wise choices create good character.

Ethical tests

Teach all employees eight ethical tests they can use to find out whether a decision is moral and ethical. They can use more than one at a time.

1. **Golden Rule test:** Would I want people to do this to me?
2. **Fairness test:** Is it fair to everybody who might be affected by my actions?
3. What if everybody did this test: Would I want everyone to do this? Would I want to live in that kind of world?
4. **Parent test:** How would my colleagues feel if they found out I did this? What advice would they give me if I asked them if I should do it?
5. **Religion test:** How do my religious beliefs apply in this case?
6. **Conscience test:** Does this go against my conscience? Will I feel guilty afterwards?
7. **Consequence test:** Might this action have bad consequences, such as damage to relationships or loss of self-respect? Might I come to regret doing this?
8. **Front-page test:** How would I feel if my action were reported on the front page of my hometown newspaper?

Seven steps to good decision making

According to the Josephson Institute there are seven steps in making good and wise decisions:

1. **Stop and think.** Create a pause before you react. Wise and rational decisions require thought. Thought prevents unwise choices and foolish impulsive behaviour. If children are taught to pause to consider how their words might cause hurt feelings, anger or sadness, they are likely to make better choices and have better relationships. Just as we teach young children to look both ways before they cross the street, we should instil the habit of stopping and thinking, of looking ahead before making decisions.
2. **Clarify goals.** Clarify what you want to accomplish in the short and long term. Decisions that accomplish immediate needs and wants can prevent the achievement of more important life goals.
3. **Determine the facts.** Good decision makers recognise the importance of facts and the value of gathering sufficient information to support intelligent choices. Part of making good decisions involves making good judgements as to whom and what to believe.
4. **Develop options.** Good decision makers make a list of options – a range of things they could do to accomplish their goals.
5. **Consider consequences.** What are the consequences of each option? What are the consequences in the light of your core values?
6. **Choose.** Select an option, make your choice and implement it. If you are still in doubt, talk to someone whose judgement you respect. Ask yourself: What would the most ethical person I know do? Follow the golden rule.
7. **Monitor en modify.** Monitor the effectiveness of your choice to see if it is working. If it is not working, modify. Choose another option.