



Wisdom vs. Fear Worksheet

Wisdom is vital for leaders as they evaluate and make decisions. Please use this worksheet as a tool to help ensure wise decision making.

Start with what you **THINK** the facts are. What are at least **5 FACTS** that you think support your decision?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Think **CRITICALLY** about the facts. Critical thinking is about objective analysis. What one piece of peer reviewed research can you find that supports what you think?

- 1.

How do these facts **AUTHENTICALLY** align with your character? How does the data you are analyzing align with the actions and words which are congruent with your beliefs and values?

What are your past **EXPERIENCES** with these facts? What you **THINK** is often heavily influenced by what you have experienced in the past. What experiences have you had that are influencing the way you think about your decision?

As you **REFLECT** on these experiences, what are the facts telling you? Reflection is about being contemplative and meditative about what you **THINK** and have **EXPERIENCED**. It is important that you deal with **FACTS** in reflection. Not what you want the facts to be, or what you hope the facts will be, but rather what the facts really are.

Do you have the **COURAGE** to put the facts into action? Being courageous means you might have to challenge yourself or others with the **FACTS**. Being courageous means a willingness to take risks. What risks do you need to overcome in the decision you are sensing you want to make?

Have you pressure tested the facts with a larger **COMMUNITY** of advisors? It is time to bring some trusted advisors into your decision making process. Who is speaking into your life on the issue you are **REFLECTING** on? What are their credentials? Are they qualified to help you with the decision?

What did the above **DELIBERATIONS** tell you about the facts? The idea of **DELIBERATION** is that you are willing to take feedback from your community on what you **THINK**. You have to be open to the idea that you might be wrong. None of us is perfect, so listening becomes a vital skill in **DELIBERATION**. What are the **DELIBERATIONS** you are having with your **COMMUNITY** telling you about your decision? Are you getting any sense of **WISDOM** or are you still afraid?

As you **COLLABORATE** with others, do you get a positive impression about the facts? Once you get feedback from your **COMMUNITY**, it is time to **COLLABORATE** with others who will be impacted by your decision or whose support you will need to make your decision a reality. Who are the people who will be impacted by your decision? Whose support do you need to make the decision a reality? Do not take the easy road in **COLLABORATION**. Pressure test your relationships so that your implementation will align with your desire.

Some of you who bring **SPIRITUALITY** into your fact discernment will call upon God to show you direction. Many faith traditions believe that **WISDOM** is bestowed on people. If you are a **SPIRITUAL** person, what is this connection like for you? Does your relationship with God or your faith tradition have anything to say about the decision you are making?

Now you are ready to **EVALUATE** what you **THINK** the facts are. In the **EVALUATION** phase you are going back to what you **THINK**. Is it wise? Do you have a sense of calm about your decision? If you still sense fear or doubt, it is time to go through the process again and see if you can find what it is that is missing.

This model for wisdom is based upon the doctoral research of Dr. Scott Livingston with thanks to Dr Vern Ludden who first hypothesized this model in 2009.