



The WISDOM of Problem Solving

Begin with a prayer for wisdom:

Holy Spirit,

Give us the Wisdom to see where God is at work in this situation
and help us to share respectfully with each other.

Amen.

W	<p>What is the problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the problem. • Be specific. • Focus on the situation, not the people involved.
I	<p>Identify as many possible solutions as you can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let everyone participate. • Don't evaluate or judge...just identify.
S	<p>Scrutinize each solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify pros and cons • Does this solution follow Catholic teaching? • Does this solution lead to sin (harming relationship with God, self, or others) • Is it feasible / do-able • Imagine the outcome of implementing this solution
D	<p>Do it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on a solution to implement and DO IT. • Make sure it is a solution that everyone is willing to try. • Reassure anyone who is unsure that if the solution doesn't work you will work together to find another.
O	<p>Observe what happens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice the effect of your chosen solution. • Is that what I thought would happen? Hoped would happen? • How did this solution impact others?
M	<p>Make changes / improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try another solution. • Problem solve new options if necessary.

Keep these things in mind:

- Attack the problem, not the person.
- We are all children of God. - Treat each other with respect.
- First identify solutions that meet the other person's needs, then share solutions that address your own.
- Use I-feel statements, not blaming statements.
- Take responsibility for your actions.
- Be open to new ideas.
- The right choice will lead you closer to God, not farther away from God.
- God doesn't desire for bad things to happen, but God will bring good from bad if you seek Him.