

CHALLENGING RELATIONAL STRENGTHS WORKSHEET

Challenging individuals bring unique relational strengths to both community settings and conversations. These strengths often manifest in their directness, independence, and willingness to challenge norms, which can be valuable in driving honest communication, critical thinking, and accountability.

Relational Strengths in a Community

- **Honest and Direct Communication:** Challenging individuals are often straightforward and honest. They don't shy away from saying what needs to be said, even if it's uncomfortable. This directness can be valuable in community settings where clarity and truthfulness are needed to address problems or inefficiencies.
- **Promoting Critical Thinking:** They often encourage others to question assumptions and think critically. In communities, they challenge ideas and approaches, which can help prevent group thinking and lead to more innovative and well-considered decisions.
- **Strong Sense of Independence:** Challenging individuals tend to be more independent and self-reliant. This independence can inspire others in the community to take initiative and be less dependent on consensus or group approval, fostering a culture of autonomy and self-sufficiency.
- **Encouraging Accountability:** They are likely to hold others accountable for their actions and commitments, ensuring that people don't simply "go along" with things to maintain harmony. This can create a community where individuals are expected to follow through on their responsibilities.
- **Unwavering Commitment to Principles:** They are less likely to compromise their values or principles for the sake of pleasing others. In a community, this can be a strength when there is a need for someone to stand firm on important issues, even in the face of opposition.
- **Willingness to Address Difficult Issues:** Challenging individuals are often more comfortable addressing difficult or controversial issues that others might avoid. This helps communities confront and resolve underlying problems rather than allowing them to fester.
- **Resilience in Conflict:** They are generally more comfortable with conflict and can handle tense situations without being easily upset. This resilience allows them to deal with disputes directly, which can be helpful in resolving deeper issues within a community.

Jesus' Teachings

Challenging individuals, while sometimes more direct, assertive, and less concerned with social harmony, has relational strengths that reflect honesty, courage to speak the truth, and a commitment to justice. These qualities are often necessary for standing firm in one's beliefs, addressing difficult issues, and ensuring accountability in relationships. Jesus' teachings also reflect these strengths, especially in His call for truthfulness and righteous judgment.

Teaching on Honesty, Truth, and Justice

Jesus taught about the importance of truth and righteousness, even when it's difficult or uncomfortable. One key teaching is found in Matthew 5:37:

Matthew 5:37: *"Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."*

