

# PRACTICAL TRAIT NAVIGATING CHALLENGES

You are a concrete, straightforward thinker. You distrust ideas and theories that do not have practical, real-world applications. You prefer tradition and conventional ways over new, untested ideas. You are more realistic than creative and often have difficulty imagining things that you have not personally experienced.

## Challenges You May Experience from Yourself and Others

Often at work, you may be faced with new, uncertain and/or changing situations. You could be faced with a breakdown in the process or system you need to get your job done or with an internal or customer related problem that has yet to be seen at your workplace. While you are innately 'wired' to seek practical and proven solutions to these problems, others may feel that your traditional approach is too rigid. Others may perceive you as conservative, too narrow in your thinking, set in your ways, and not accepting of change. It's helpful to be aware of how your practical and conservative approach at work can be perceived by others so that you can monitor your behavior.

## How to Effectively Manage Challenges

- **Embrace practical solutions:** Use your preference for proven methods to address problems efficiently.
- **Stay open to change:** While maintaining your practical approach, remain receptive to new ideas and adapt to changing circumstances.
- **Communicate effectively:** Clearly convey your rationale behind your approach to ensure others understand your perspective.
- **Be flexible:** Demonstrate willingness to consider alternative solutions while sticking to what has been proven effective.
- **Seek feedback:** Actively solicit input from colleagues to ensure your approach is perceived positively and to identify areas for improvement.
- **Emphasize collaboration:** Work with others to find solutions that balance practicality with innovation.
- **Manage perceptions:** Be mindful of how your conservative approach may be perceived and make adjustments as needed to foster positive relationships.

## Jesus' Teachings

By integrating these teachings of Jesus into your approach, you can navigate workplace challenges more effectively. Balancing practicality with openness to change, improving communication, and fostering collaboration will help create an environment where your traditional methods are respected while also allowing for innovation and adaptability. This alignment with Jesus' principles can lead to more fruitful interactions and a more harmonious workplace.

- **Embrace Practical Solutions:** Jesus emphasized the importance of wise and practical decision-making, as seen in the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-27), where building on a solid foundation is crucial. Use your preference for proven methods to address problems effectively. Ensure that your solutions are grounded in reliable principles and practices.
- **Stay Open to Change:** Jesus taught about the necessity of renewal and transformation, as indicated in Matthew 9:17, where He speaks about new wine needing new wineskins. While valuing traditional methods, remain open to new ideas and be willing to adapt your approach as circumstances change. Embrace growth and transformation.
- **Communicate Effectively:** Jesus communicated His thoughts clearly and often explained His actions (e.g., John 10:10), helping others understand His purpose. Clearly articulate the rationale behind your practical approaches, ensuring that your colleagues understand your perspective and the reasoning behind your methods.
- **Be Flexible:** Jesus modeled flexibility in His ministry, adapting His messages to different audiences (e.g., Matthew 13:10-17, where He explains parables to His disciples). Demonstrate a willingness to consider alternative solutions while still valuing effective practices. This adaptability can help bridge gaps between traditional and innovative approaches.
- **Seek Feedback:** Jesus often engaged with His disciples, encouraging dialogue and feedback (e.g., Matthew 16:13-20, where He seeks their opinions). Actively solicit input from colleagues to gauge how your approach is perceived. This openness to feedback can help you identify areas for improvement and enhance collaboration.
- **Emphasize Collaboration:** Jesus worked closely with His disciples, emphasizing the value of teamwork and cooperation (e.g., Mark 3:13-19). Engage with others to find solutions that balance practicality with innovation. Collaborative problem-solving can lead to more comprehensive and effective outcomes.
- **Manage Perceptions:** Jesus was aware of how His actions were perceived and often addressed misconceptions directly (e.g., John 2:18-22). Be mindful of how your conservative approach might be perceived by others. Make adjustments when necessary to foster positive relationships and demonstrate your openness to others' ideas.

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