

# Workbook

Leadership Edge Academy



## Creative Decision Making

*Right decisions for right impact*

Module 8

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## LEADERSHIP EDGE ACADEMY

Through the Academy we bring healthy leadership development closest to our learners at the most affordable cost (not-for-profit). Our curriculum, content and delivery are highly contextualized for literate young adult learners. We maximize technology and contemporary teaching/learning aids. We certify each participant upon successful completion of any of our modules, however, awarding or acquiring certificate is the least of our priorities. Each participant is envisioned and encouraged to focus on life and community transformation through healthy practices

### Academy Modules

We have 4 life changing modules on –  
Meaning, Mission,  
Mastery and  
Maximizing

### Academy Seminars & Webinars

Periodic or on-request  
Leadership and Missions  
seminars and webinars

### Academy Special -

Building Healthy  
Co-creating a healthy  
youth ministry with  
Churches, Ministries and  
organizations



Threshold Christian Network International (TCNI) is a non-denominational Not-for-profit (Christian) organization, Registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria. TCNI has over 11 years' experience in leadership development of young people across Africa. Our established collaboration with Leadership training

Companies and organizations in Africa, Europe and North America uniquely provides the required validated resources and adaptable processes for youth and leadership development. We have directly engaged over 10,000 young people across Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire. Out of which new initiatives transforming communities across Africa have been pioneered by some of these young leaders. We have gained mastery through Christ to contribute meaningfully to the development of Africa's young people.

Get Involved Today  
[www.tcninternational.org](http://www.tcninternational.org)

#### Host

You can collaborate with us to mobilize for missions and/or train young leaders in your community or organization. We need your invitation today.

#### Volunteer

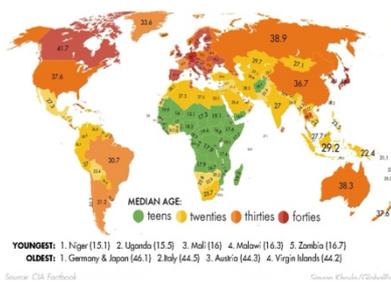
We invite you to volunteer your time and talents; and be a part of equipping the young generations of Africa.

#### Donate:

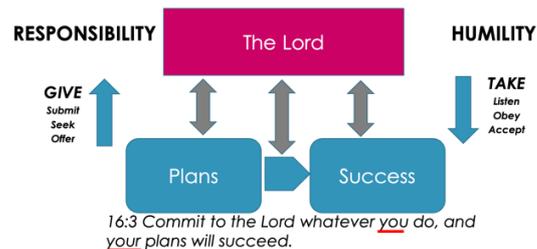
We invite you to generously give your treasures and resources towards equipping Africa's Young People. Make your cash or cheque donations to:

Threshold Christian Network International  
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Ethical Fitness Scheme



## 1.0 Exploring Decisions and Decision making



### The Bible says:

Word of the king's decision spread quickly throughout the entire nation, and all the people were awed as they realized the great wisdom God had given him. 1 Kings 3:28 Msg



### Read and Reflect:

Luke 15:11-24

To further illustrate the point, he told them this story: "A man had two sons. When the younger told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now, instead of waiting until you die!' his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and took a trip to a distant land, and there wasted all his money on parties and prostitutes. About the time his money was gone a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him to feed his pigs. The boy became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the swine looked good to him. And no one gave him anything. "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired men have food enough and to spare, and here I am, dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired man."' "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming, and was filled with loving pity and ran and embraced him and kissed him. "His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and you, and am not worthy of being called your son—' "But his father said to the slaves, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. And a jeweled ring for his finger; and shoes! And kill the calf we have in the fattening pen. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has returned to life. He was lost and is found.' So the party began.

1 List the decisions made in this story and classify them as right or wrong.

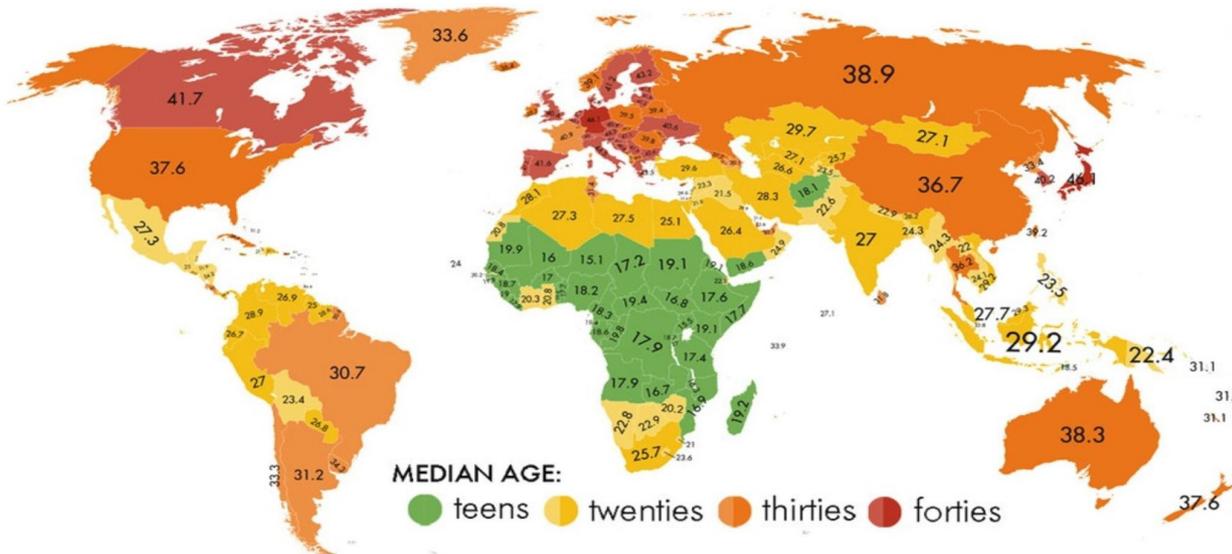
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2 Recall and write down 2 right decisions you have made, and 2 wrong decisions you have made in the past that have influenced or defined your life trajectory.

Right Decision		Wrong Decision	
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_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 2.0 The Necessity for Creative Decision Making

### World Median Ages



**YOUNGEST:** 1. Niger (15.1) 2. Uganda (15.5) 3. Mali (16) 4. Malawi (16.3) 5. Zambia (16.7)  
**OLDEST:** 1. Germany & Japan (46.1) 2. Italy (44.5) 3. Austria (44.3) 4. Virgin Islands (44.2)

Source: CIA Factbook

Simran Khosla/GlobalPost

- Age impacts our decision making** – mature or immature, ethically fit or unfit, growing or stunted. Socio-political space associates age with maturity (decision making – marriage, voting etc)
- Our decisions reflect who we truly are** - Our lives are full of choices and decisions because we are human beings not Robots. Our decisions will ultimately shape our lives.
- Making right decisions is actually a “God-like” quality** - But we have inherited a sinful/fallen nature that affects our capacity of always making good, wise decisions; the fallen nature promotes greed, envy, lust, selfishness.
- Decisions come with immediate and most often future consequences** – these consequences make or mar individuals and their communities.
- Decisions shape our contribution, culture, and community** - Africa's trajectory is tied to decision making. Right decisions: right trajectory.

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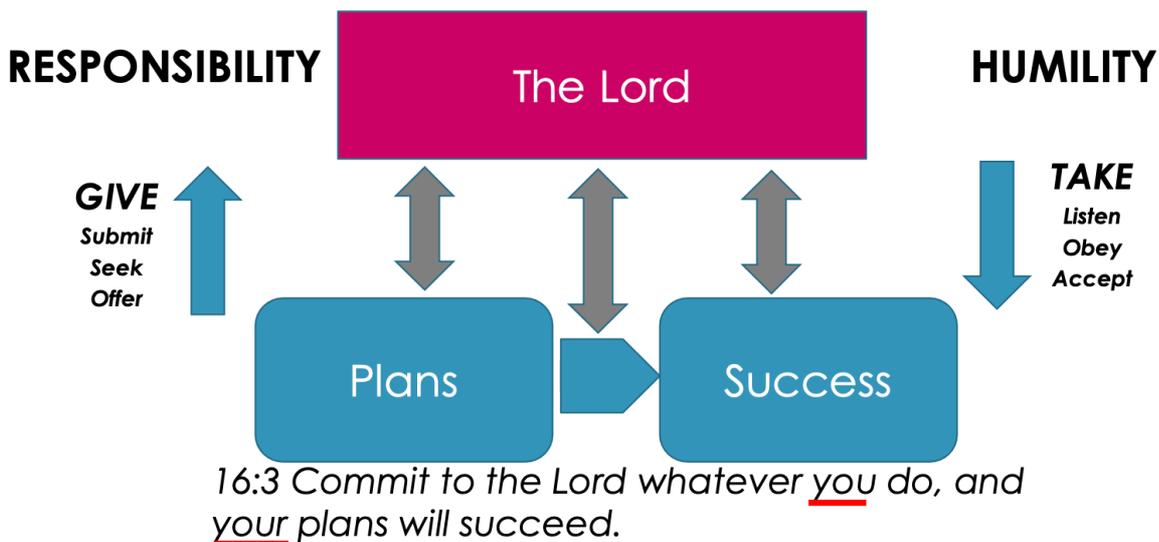
### 3.0 Creative Decision-Making process

*Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. ... Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. **Romans 12:2 MSG***

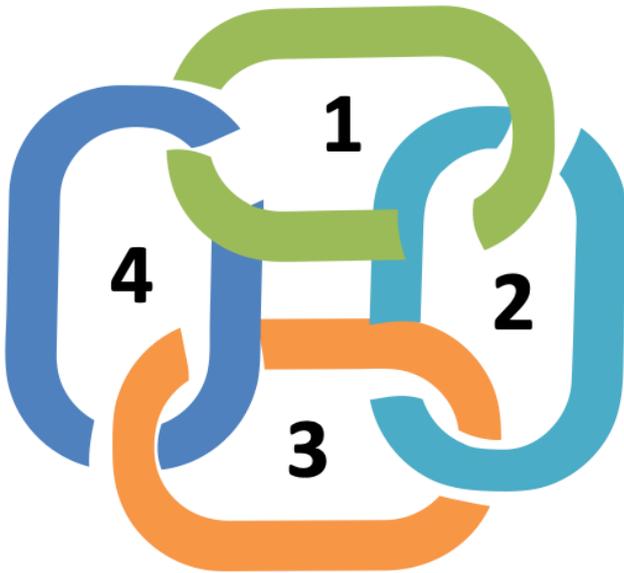
#### THE FOUR PATTERNS

1. **Principles** - Relying on existing Laws, policies, standards, and directives. Principles are those absolute basics that undergird human life, sets relational boundaries and preserve community
2. **Character** - Decisions premised on who you are, embodied values, habits and rituals, and virtues nurtured over time. When a liar tells the truth unconsciously or incidentally that isolated decision doesn't match with character.
3. **Consequences** - Decisions based on results, outcomes, consideration of the interest of others and common good. The theory of consequentialism holds that the consequences of my decision (when acted upon) forms the basis for determining it's being right and valid.
4. **Role** - Decisions based on profession, nature of job, position or office held. This implies that sex is right, if I engage in it in my position as a wife or a husband. Deadly force is right if a Police Officer or military officer use deadly force on a citizen in other to protect other citizens or the community.

#### A BIBLICAL APPROACH



**PRACTICAL GUIDE TO CREATIVE DECISION MAKING**



**DISCOVER** - Discover the situation, our unique place in the situation, and the question (issues) the situation present. In corporate or community decision making, this will mean empathy.

**DISCERN** - Judge the issues by your virtues, principles, and life commitments. Consult with godly influences.

**DECIDE** - What are the possible solutions or choices available to me? What will be the consequence of these choices? Which is the most appropriate?

**DEFEND** - Are you willing to let people and those involved know about your decision? Is your decision good, pleasing & perfect?

**Case Study**

Soon afterwards two young prostitutes came to the king to have an argument settled. "Sir," one of them began, "we live in the same house, just the two of us, and recently I had a baby. When it was three days old, this woman's baby was born too. But her baby died during the night when she rolled over on it in her sleep and smothered it. Then she got up in the night and took my son from beside me while I was asleep, and laid her dead child in my arms and took mine to sleep beside her. And in the morning when I tried to feed my baby it was dead! But when it became light outside, I saw that it wasn't my son at all." Then the other woman interrupted, "It certainly was her son, and the living child is mine." "No," the first woman said, "the dead one is yours and the living one is mine." And so they argued back and forth before the king. Then the king said, "Let's get the facts straight: both of you claim the living child, and each says that the dead child belongs to the other. All right, bring me a sword." So a sword was brought to the king. Then he said, "Divide the living child in two and give half to each of these women!" Then the woman who really was the mother of the child, and who loved him very much, cried out, "Oh no, sir! Give her the child—don't kill him!" But the other woman said, "All right, it will be neither yours nor mine; divide it between us!" Then the king said, "Give the baby to the woman who wants him to live, for she is the mother!" Word of the king's decision spread quickly throughout the entire nation, and all the people were awed as they realized the great wisdom God had given him. 1kgs 3:16-28 LB

**Identify the four practical steps in this story and make remarks on how you can apply them in your daily life:**

Practical step	In the story	Application
Discover		
Discern		
Decide		
Defend		

## 4.0 Fitness for Creative Decision Making

*Fitness for creative decision making is having the basic readiness and capacity to decide and act appropriately in any situation, at any time, and in all affairs of life. It is about training yourself to distinguish between vice and virtue, good and evil, and practicing good and virtues pleurably.*

# Ethical Fitness Scheme



**Fitness** is empowering – it releases the inner energies of self-worth, self-esteem, and self-love

**Fitness** is contagious – ethically fit people have grown to become masters and models, multiplying fitness to all within their influence circle.

**Fitness** is transformational – slow but potent to transform the individual, community and nations.

### BECOMING ETHICALLY FIT:

- 1. Find yourself** – Find your passion, past experiences (Upbringing), purpose, personality and your spiritual gifts, make a healthy sense of them and translate them to a compass, defining who you want to be, what you want to accomplish, how you want to grow in faithfulness and what standards/codes/conduct are important to who you want to become.
- 2. Find your habits** – Habits are the rituals that grow and expand our muscles with respect to virtue, character and conduct. Healthy habits draw from your energies (Physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual) Find and commit to Godly habits. Daily practicing the virtues of integrity, courage, humility, justice and wisdom among others.
- 3. Find your support** – Your support includes your models, mentors and even proteges. Discover, connect and learn from them.

## 5.0 Animating your Creative Decision



"My greatest fear for you is not that you will fail, but that you will succeed in doing the wrong thing."  
**Howard Hendricks**

1	<b>Make your decisions actionable</b>	
2	<b>Embrace the Transition</b>	
3	<b>Follow the process</b>	
4	<b>Maximize your supports</b>	

# My Action Plan

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Accountability</b>