

A way of thinking

“Positive” doesn’t work until “useful” is included.

At its heart, an asset-based approach is rooted in a different way of thinking about most of life, summarized in these thoughts from Bob, a congregational leader from California:

“I look for positive, useful elements in almost every situation, every person.” Bob understands that “positive” doesn’t work until “useful” is included. Bob can find good where others may see only problems to be solved.

“I value the relationships God provides me.” Relationships with other people are at the heart of Bob’s ministry. He has learned to honor, affirm and become excited about other people’s assets.

“It helps to name the assets I find in others.” Like the ancient Hebrews, Bob understands that when others hear the names of their assets, they begin to know and value themselves better.

“I can live my life satisfied with who I am and what I’ve been given.” The satisfaction that comes from “enough” frees Bob from endlessly seeking “more.”

“Asset-based thinking helps me be flexible.” Bob takes advantage of changing situations and new assets. (See Case Study 5.)

Asset-based thinking is a way to find excitement and realize hope in what you do. Eventually this kind of thinking can spread into your entire life.

Just ask Bob.



ANOTHER LOOK

THIS KIND OF THINKING ALSO SPREADS INTO THE WAY YOU TREAT YOUR FAMILY, THE DIFFICULTIES YOU FACE, HOW YOU MEASURE YOUR SELF-WORTH, AND HOW YOU LISTEN OR NOTICE “SMALL DETAILS.”