

Concepts, Values, Beliefs, and Principles

For this presentation, we will work from the following assumptions:

CONCEPTS: Concepts consist of a category (“class” or “set”) and attributes by which to tell whether or not an object belongs in the category. Examples: “anxiety,” “leader,” “differentiated,” “overfunctioning.”

VALUES: Values relate to the qualities that give intrinsic worth to something. Examples of values: virtue, distinction, excellence, grace, courtesy, respect, hard work, honesty, loyalty, beauty.

BELIEFS: Beliefs are the convictions of the truth of some statement, tenant, concept, or doctrine, or the reality of some phenomenon especially when based on examination of evidence or experience. BFST strives to differentiate between “beliefs” and “observable facts.”

PRINCIPLES: Principles are foundational, universal, and causal. Principles are best understood when structured as “If . . . then . . .” Example: “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” Or, “If a leader puts up with the underfunctioning and irresponsible workers in a system, then the more mature and professional persons in the system will likely leave sooner than later.”