Testing Your Thoughts

This worksheet is a version of a Dysfunctional Thought Record

What is the situation?
What am I thinking or imagining?
How much do I believe it? A little Medium A lot (rate 0-100)
How does that thought make me feel? Angry Sad Nervous Other
How strong is the feeling? A little strong Medium Very strong (rate 0-100)
What makes me think the thought is true?
What makes me think the thought is not true or not completely true?
What's the worst that could happen? Would I still live through it?
What's the best that could happen?
What will probably happen?
What will happen if I keep telling myself the same thought?
What could happen if I changed my thinking?
What would I tell my friend if this happened to them?
What's another way to look at this?
What should I do now?
How much do I believe the negative thought now? A little Medium A lot (rate 0-100)
How strong is my negative feeling now? A little Medium Very strong (rate 0-100)

Testing Your Thoughts (Example)

What is the situation? *I want to be connected with my community, but my disability makes it hard to get out of the house.*

What am I thinking or imagining? *I can't connect with my community anymore*.

How much do I believe it? A little Medium (A lot) (rate 0-100 80)

How does that thought make me feel? Angry Sad Nervous Other Lonely

How strong is the feeling? A little strong Medium (Very strong) (rate 0-100 <u>80</u>)

What makes me think the thought is true? <u>I'm stuck at home all day, I haven't been able to work because</u> there is nowhere that is accessible in my community.

What makes me think the thought is not true or not completely true? *I am able to go to my church every* week because they have a wheelchair ramp. My friends come to visit me regularly.

What's the worst that could happen? Would I still live through it? <u>People will forget about me, I will be stuck</u> in my home forever. Yes, I wouldn't like it, but I could live with this.

What's the best that could happen? My community steps up, and makes changes to accommodate me.

What will probably happen? <u>Maybe I can find a job working remotely? And start driving to the nearby town</u> to look there?

What will happen if I keep telling myself the same thought? <u>I would stop looking for work, and nothing will</u> change.

What could happen if I changed my thinking? <u>I might be able to make other connections in my community</u> that make me happy. I might find a job working from home, or nearby. I would keep looking for support.

What would I tell my friend if this happened to them? <u>I would say, don't give up. That this is hard, but you'll</u> <u>be okay. Your community is working to change things, but it's slow.</u>

What's another way to look at this? *I am limited with where I can go, but not completely disconnected.*

What should I do now? I'm going to see if there are any places in the nearby town that have accessible or remote work.

How much do I believe the negative thought now? A little Medium A lot (or rate 0-100 <u>50</u>)

How strong is my negative feeling now? A little (Medium) Very strong (or rate 0-100 40)

Adapted from J.S. Beck, PH.D., 1996; changes to examples by Karen Sablowsky