

# 4 WISE INVESTMENTS

## PONDERING

Sometimes you need to stop and put things into perspective. Find a quiet spot and take time to reflect on an issue, project, or goal. Ask yourself questions like:

- Why are we doing this?
- What do we really hope to achieve?
- What type of leader do I want to be?

## SCUBA DIVING

When you are constantly busy, you often stay at the surface and waterski over issues. You may occasionally go deeper and snorkel, but you never take the time to really scuba dive on an issue. So, you keep addressing symptoms instead of root causes. Ask yourself these questions:

- When is the last time you took the time to scuba dive on an issue?
- Is there something that keeps resurfacing on your team that you should invest time in problem-solving?
- What's the long-term impact of constantly waterskiing?

## PLANNING

Putting out fires all the time makes it really difficult to invest in planning. However, one of the reasons you may be constantly putting out fires is because you aren't spending enough time planning. Ask yourself these questions:

- Are you spending the appropriate amount of time planning things as opposed to doing them?
- Have you invested too much time fixing issues that could have been avoided in the first place?
- How good is your team at planning?

## RELATIONSHIPS

When you are busy, relationships often suffer. You may intend to connect with an employee, but you just "can't" find the time. At some point, the inability to connect erupts into a situation that could have been avoided. Ask yourself these questions:

- When was the last time you connected with your people?
- Is there a relationship that you've ignored that you should tend to?
- What's your next chance to connect with someone?