



# The Basecamp Playbook

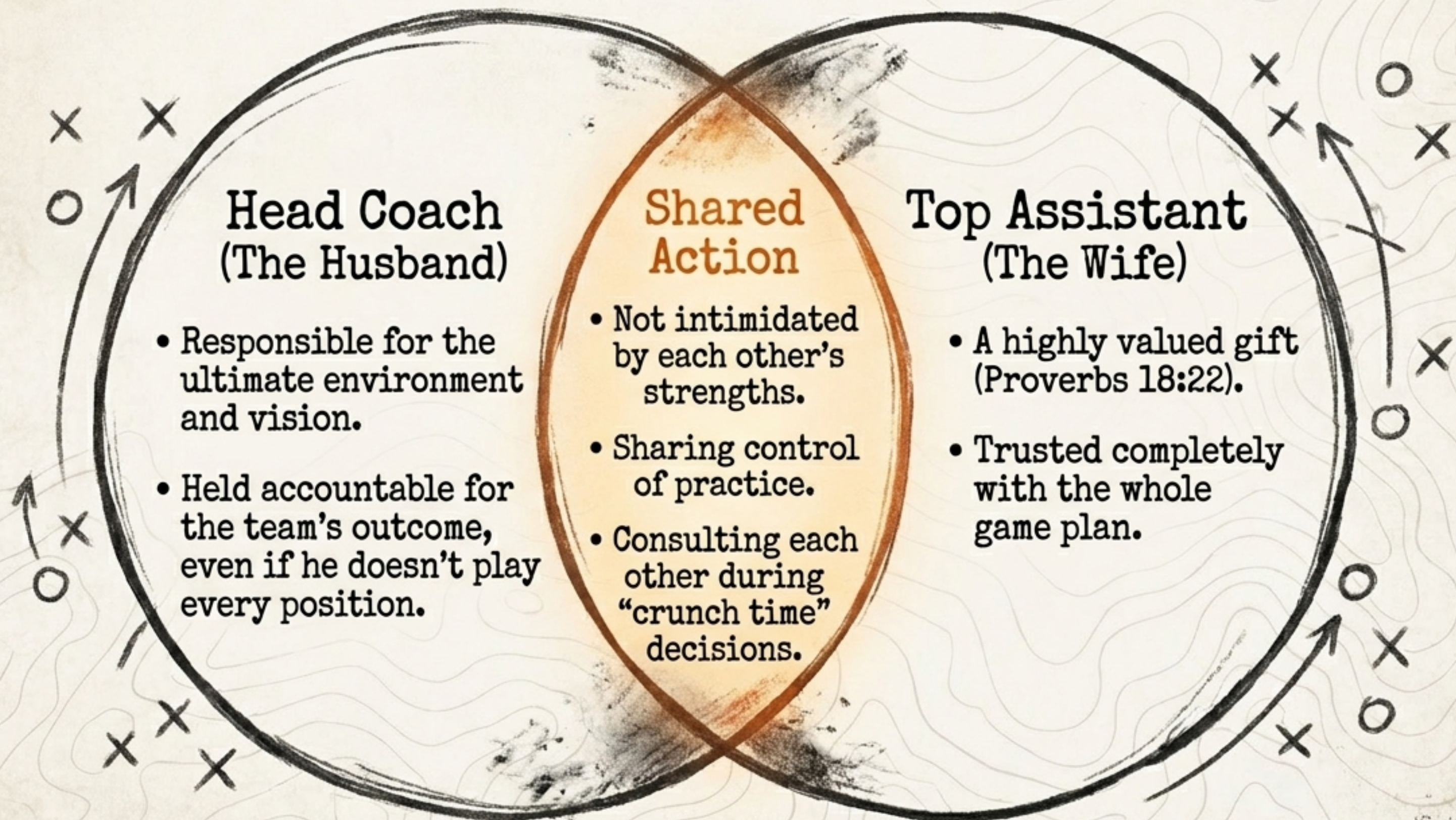
A Field Guide to Leading Your Family with Intentionality

# Leadership Is Developed, Not Gifted

We are not handed the gift of leadership the moment we say "I do" or hold a baby for the first time. It is built by stealing the best habits from the leaders, coaches, and teachers we admire most.



# The Core Partnership: Head Coach & Top Assistant



# The Power of Proximity in Conflict

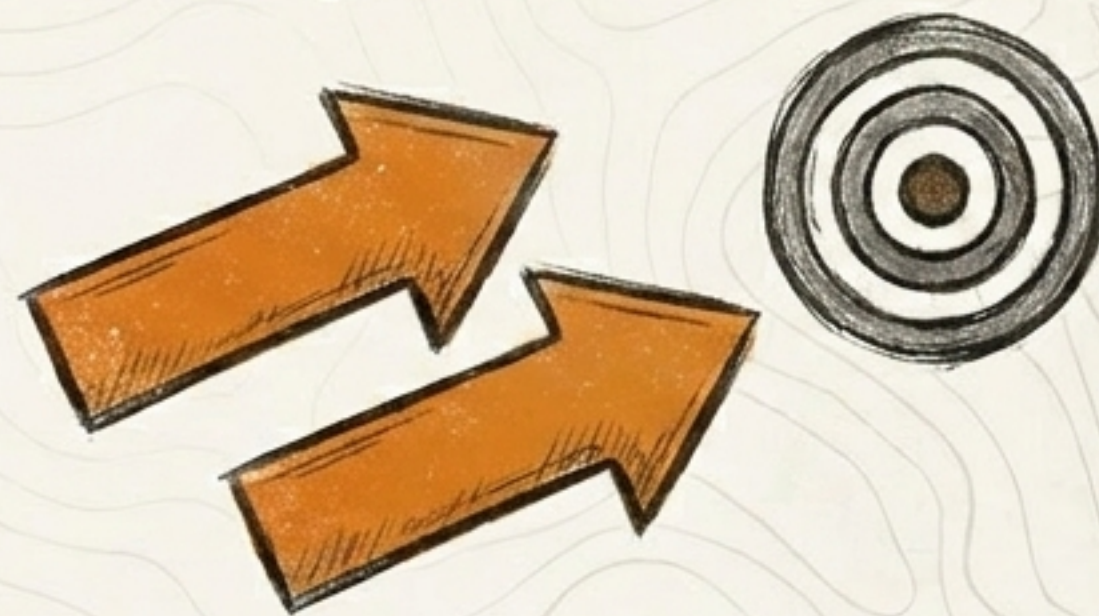
Where there is no vision, the people perish. (Proverbs 29:18).  
A family without direction simply drifts.

## Adversarial: Face-to-Face



Confrontation naturally breeds anger.  
When angry with your wife or kids,  
standing face-to-face locks you into  
opposing viewpoints.

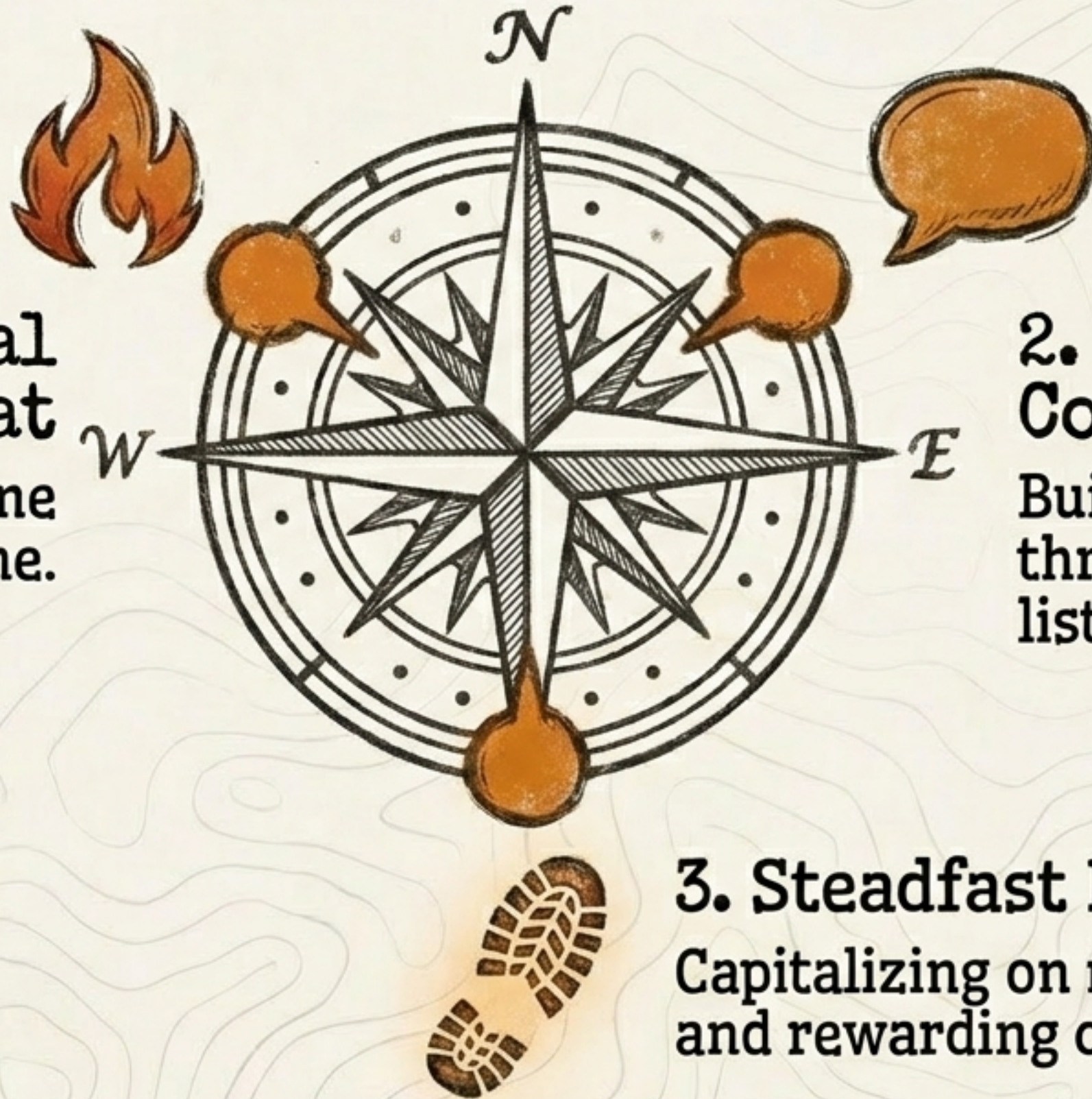
## Visionary: Side-by-Side



A wise umpire's secret: Stand beside an  
angry coach. It is incredibly difficult to  
remain angry when you are forced to  
look in the exact same direction and  
see the same perspective.

# The Three Pillars of Intentional Leadership

**1. The Spiritual  
Thermostat**  
Setting the baseline  
atmosphere of the home.



**2. Intentional  
Communication**  
Building deep connection  
through restraint and  
listening.

**3. Steadfast Presence**  
Capitalizing on micro-moments  
and rewarding core values.

# Pillar 1: You Are the Spiritual Thermostat

Spiritual leadership does not require praying for three hours or speaking in tongues. God made men to function like a thermostat: you are responsible for regulating and maintaining the home's baseline atmosphere.

A thermostat doesn't guarantee the house will be perfect every second, but it creates the ultimate consistency of the environment.



# Spiritual Leadership in the Real World



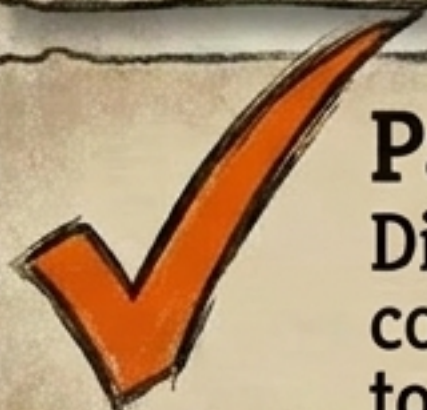
## Panel 1: The One-Sentence Prayer

Intimidated by praying out loud? Start small. Invite your wife to pray just one sentence with you before bed. Let God take it from there.



## Panel 2: The Sunday Pivot

If you miss a Sunday service, don't just ignore it. Take 5 minutes to read the verse of the day on the Bible App or catch the sermon summary. Send the message that worship is still a priority.



## Panel 3: Embrace Messy Devotions

Ditch the "Kumbaya" perfection. Kids will whine, recline on the couch, and avoid eye contact. Keep it to 5-7 minutes. Be faithful to the habit, even when it feels chaotic.

# Pillar 2: The Communication Funnel

“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (Proverbs 24:3-4).”



# The Danger of the Interruption

The Study: In a 5-year study of pre-marital couples navigating hot-button topics, researchers identified the #1 indicator of future separation and divorce.



## INTERRUPTION

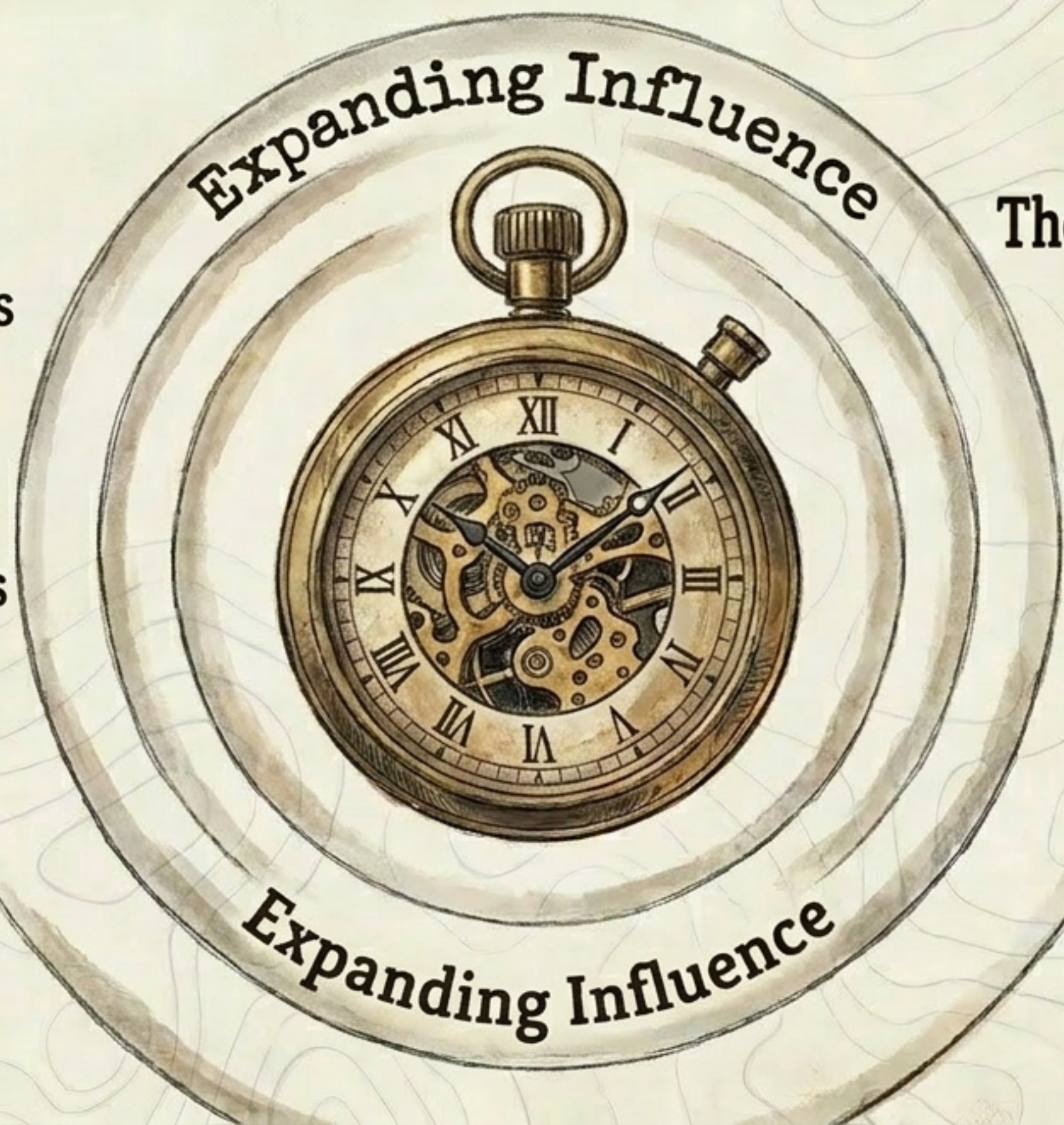
Takeaway: Finishing your wife's sentences isn't proof that you are 'in sync.' It is perceived as rude, making her feel completely unheard and unloved. Shutting down kids by cutting them off destroys their voice.

\*Note: Arguments that end harshly and are never resolved are equally destructive.

# The 10-Second Pause

## The Tactic

When your wife or kids finish speaking—or when your kids are having an irrational, immature response—wait exactly 10 seconds before you respond.



## The Why & The Response

It feels like an eternity, but it prevents you from cutting them off. It gives them space to share the thoughts they were holding back.

If they ask why you're quiet, say, "I was listening. Did you have anything else to say?"

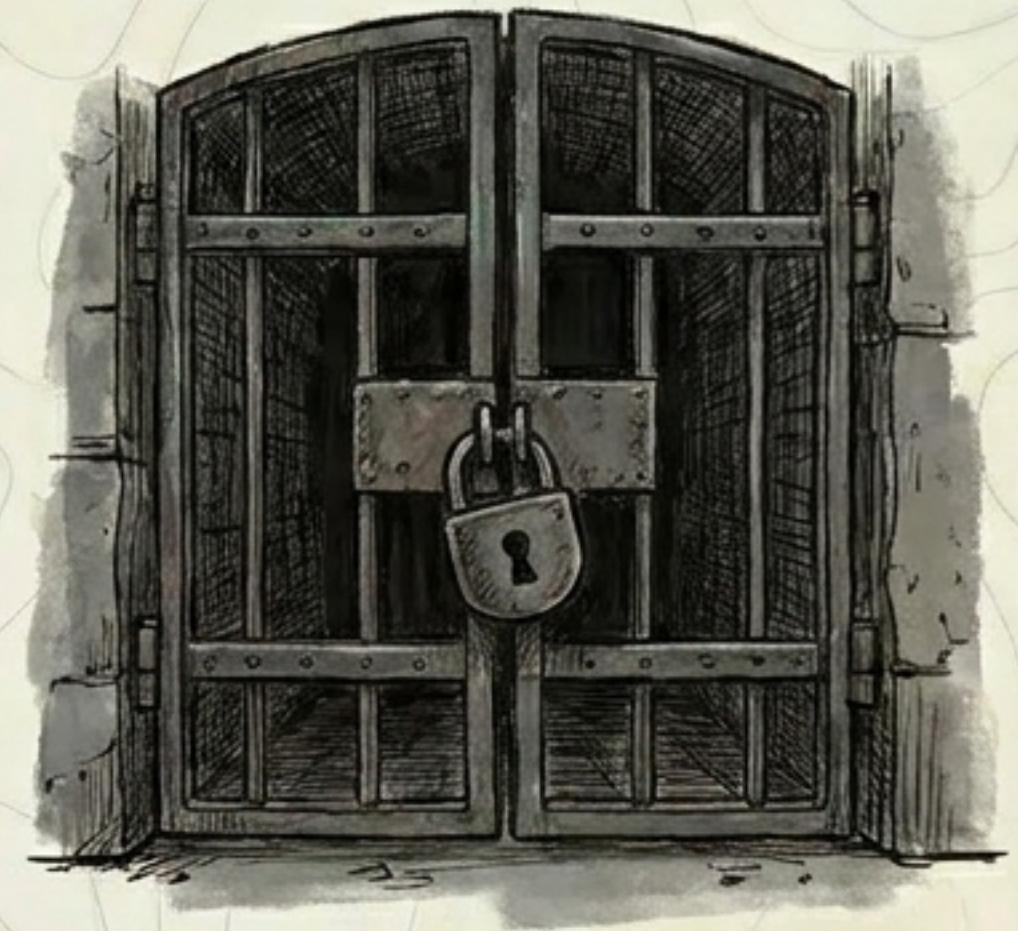
Watch them lean in.

# Guard Your Face: The Power of Non-Verbal Joy

A chemical reaction occurs in the brain when we look non-verbally excited to see our family. You can build a child's capacity for joy simply by your initial facial expression.



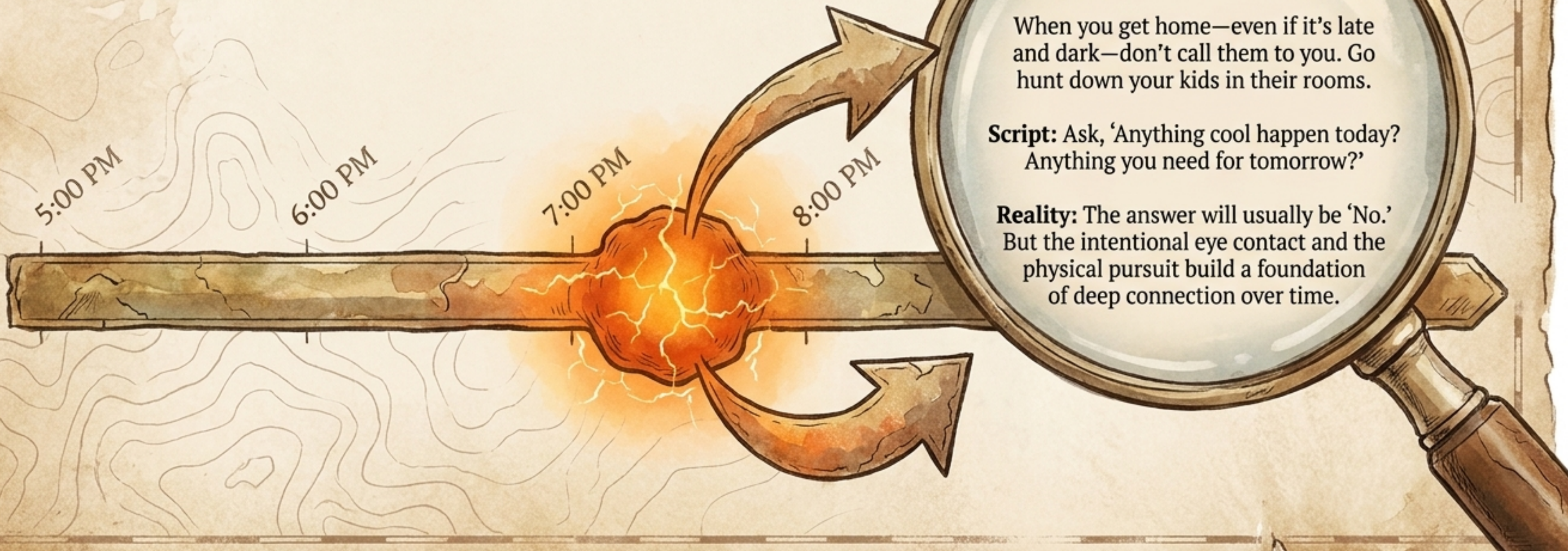
**The Prodigal Father (Luke 15):** The father spoke loudest before he ever said a word—by running, with outstretched arms, to a son who had squandered everything.



Your tone, volume, crossed arms, and natural “look” communicate exactly what you value. A stern, disapproving “dirty look” carried home from work can crush a child's spirit.

# Pillar 3: Steadfast Presence & Micro-Moments

Values and disciplines are caught, not just taught. We cannot train our kids up if we aren't physically and emotionally present.



# The Post-Game Matrix: What Do We Reward?

When you take the kids for post-game ice cream, what exactly are you rewarding?  
Individual achievement? Or sportsmanship, resilience, and discipline?

Outcome  
(Win/Great Play vs. Loss/Mistake)

When my kid makes a  
mistake on the field, I feel ...  
[\_\_\_\_\_], because [\_\_\_\_\_].

Focus  
(Performance Focus vs. Character Focus)

Kids are paralyzingly aware of our body language (eye rolls, stomps, yelling) when they strike out. Prioritize long-term growth and resilience over immediate performance.

# The Intentional Father's Daily Playbook

Spirit (The Thermostat)	Communication (The Funnel)	Presence (The Pursuit)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Set the baseline atmosphere.</li><li>- Pray one sentence.</li><li>- Pivot to the Bible App when plans fail.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Do not interrupt.</li><li>- Use the 10-Second Pause.</li><li>- Fix your face and look excited to see them.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Hunt them down when you get home.</li><li>- Stand side-by-side in conflict.</li><li>- Reward character over performance.</li></ul>

# Take One Step

My yoke is easy and my burden is light.  
(Matthew 11)

**The Challenge:**  
What is the ONE STEP  
Jesus wants you to take  
this week?  
Share it with your top  
assistant or a trusted  
friend, and keep leading  
well.

You are not expected to show up today  
as a finished product. Intentional  
leadership should not feel  
paralyzingly overwhelming.

