

Brotherly Love

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Odd man in

Cam, Project Engineer for a Vancouver, WA based construction firm providing services to commercial facilities told Session 6 of the Leadership Development Lab™:



"When I chose my pearl a few weeks ago, I thought it was a perfect opportunity to strengthen my relationship with my younger brother McEwan. Because of our shared interests like playing sports and spending time outdoors, I've always been close with my youngest brother, Stirling, who is seventeen. McEwan, who is twenty-one, has often felt like the odd man out. Unlike Stirling and I, McEwan is more independent and gravitates toward different interests and hobbies. This has unintentionally created a distance between us.



"As the oldest sibling, I know that both my brothers have always looked up to me as a role model. Now that McEwan is attending college out of state, I realize how important it is to work on bridging the gap in our relationship. So, when an

opportunity came up to visit his college town to watch a soccer game and catch up with some of my former soccer teammates, I made it a priority to carve out time for McEwan.



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*Are you ready to
Thrive in '25?*

"We arranged to meet for lunch. I approached this meeting with a plan. I told myself I would focus entirely on McEwan, listening to him, asking thoughtful questions, and genuinely trying to understand his perspective. It felt like a small, yet significant way to apply the Leadership Principle #5 – See Their Point of View.

"As I ask appropriate questions about McEwan's interests and actually listening, he opened up in a way that I'd never seen before. He talked about his classes, his goals, his friends, his life after college, and so much more. I could see the pride and joy he felt as he shared these parts of his world.

"After about an hour, he had to head back to work, but before we parted ways, he surprised me by asking if we could plan a ski trip with his friends over the winter. That simple request felt like a turning point in our relationship. Despite the physical distance between us, I could tell that our bond was beginning to significantly strengthen.

"The lesson that I learned from this experience is that when I show genuine interest in someone else's life, it creates space for them to open up and allows our relationship to grow in depth and meaning.



"The action I call you to take is to take a moment to ask thoughtful questions of someone in your life that you may have taken for granted.

"The benefit that you will gain is learning their perspective and gaining their friendship.

Do you have someone in your life, at home, at work, at play, that you're not as close to as you would like to be? Take Cam's example. Carve out a little time to ask a few questions and listen, really listen.

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called *"The Golden Age."* What will your team do to *Thrive in '25?*
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