

# INDIVIDUALISM

FREEDOM • JUSTICE • THE AMERICAN WAY



THE AMERICAN WAY

# The Family & Classroom Oath of Individual Responsibility and Growth for Leaders, Parents, Teachers, Children, and Everyone.

*Today, we commit to growing in individual character, responsibility, and respect.*



## **All Together:**

We believe our lives are our responsibility.

We own our choices—the good and the hard—and we learn from both.

We will do our best, even when it is difficult, we will keep going when motivation fades.

We will work hard and take pride in our effort, speak honestly, and listen carefully.

We will keep our word and earn trust through our actions; we will control our actions, even when emotions are strong.

We will pause, think, and choose what is right, we will solve problems instead of complaining.

We will build, improve, and help when we can, respect time and use it wisely.

We will learn every day—from books, people, and mistakes.

We will choose friends who encourage growth and stand by our values, even when standing alone.

We will adapt, but we will not give up who we are, truth will guide our choices.

We will leave people and places better than we found them.

We believe freedom grows with responsibility, and success comes from effort and integrity.

This is how we live; this is how we learn, this is how we grow.

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# TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY

## Big Idea

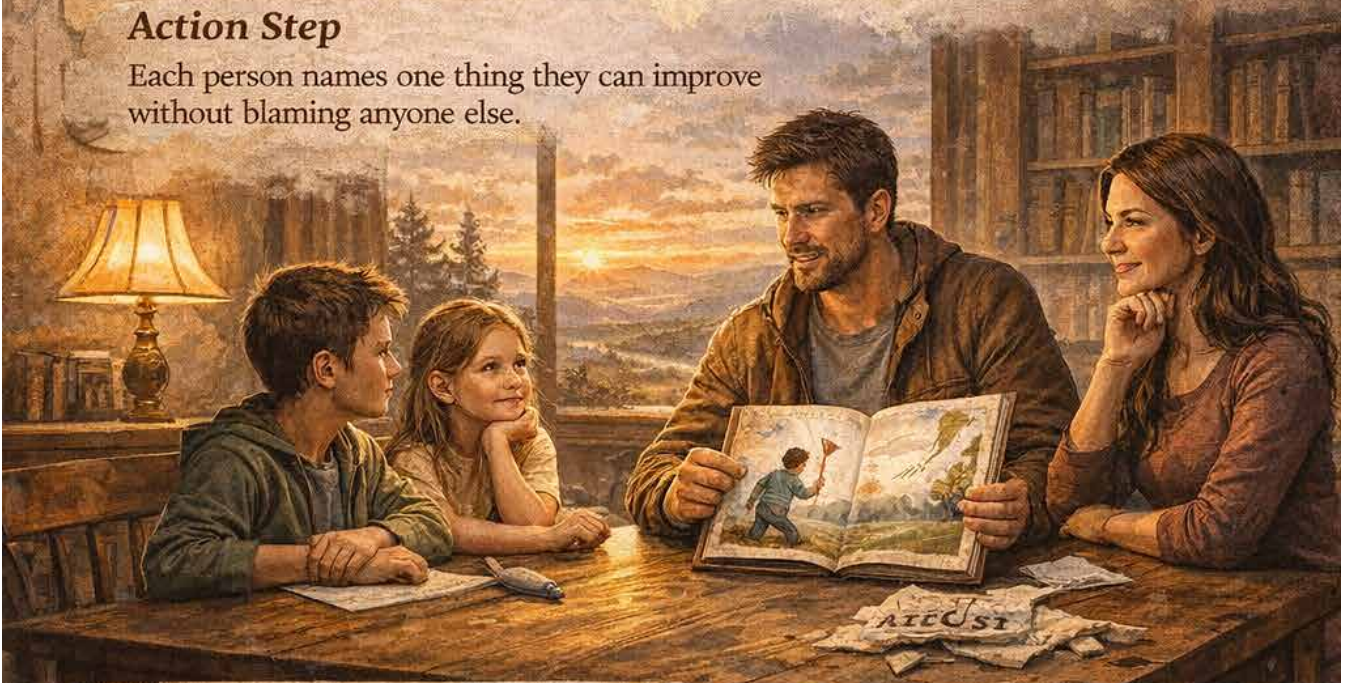
Success begins when we stop blaming and start owning our choices.

### Discuss

- **Children:** What happens when someone fixes their own mistake?
- **Youth:** Why is blaming tempting when things go wrong?
- **Adults:** How has responsibility changed your life or career?

### Action Step

Each person names one thing they can improve without blaming anyone else.



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### Reflection

“What is one outcome in my life I **fully own**?”

# BUILD SELF-RELIANCE FIRST

## Big Idea

Learning to solve problems builds confidence and freedom.

SELF-RELIANCE

DEPENDENCE

### Discuss

- **Children:** What can you try before asking for help?
- **Youth:** When does help become dependence?
- **Adults:** How does competence create opportunity?

### Action Step

Try solving one small problem today on your own before asking for help.

# DEFINE SUCCESS ON YOUR TERMS

## Big Idea

True success comes from knowing what matters to you.



## Discuss

- **Children:** What makes you proud?
- **Youth:** Who influences your idea of success?
- **Adults:** How have your definitions changed over time?



## Action Step

Write one sentence:

“Success to me means...”

# DEVELOP UNSHAKABLE DISCIPLINE

## *Big Idea*

Discipline keeps you moving when motivation disappears.

### ● Discuss

- **Children:** Why do routines help us?
- **Youth:** What happens when feelings control choices?
- **Adults:** Where has discipline paid off long-term?

### ● Action Step

Commit to one small daily habit for the next 7 days.



# EMBRACE HARD WORK

## *Big Idea*

Effort builds strength, pride, and real confidence.

## ● Discuss

- **Children:** How does practice make things easier later?
- **Youth:** Why do shortcuts fail?
- **Adults:** What did hard work teach you that comfort never did?



## ● Action Step

Do one task today thoroughly, not quickly.

# MASTER A VALUABLE SKILL

## Big Idea

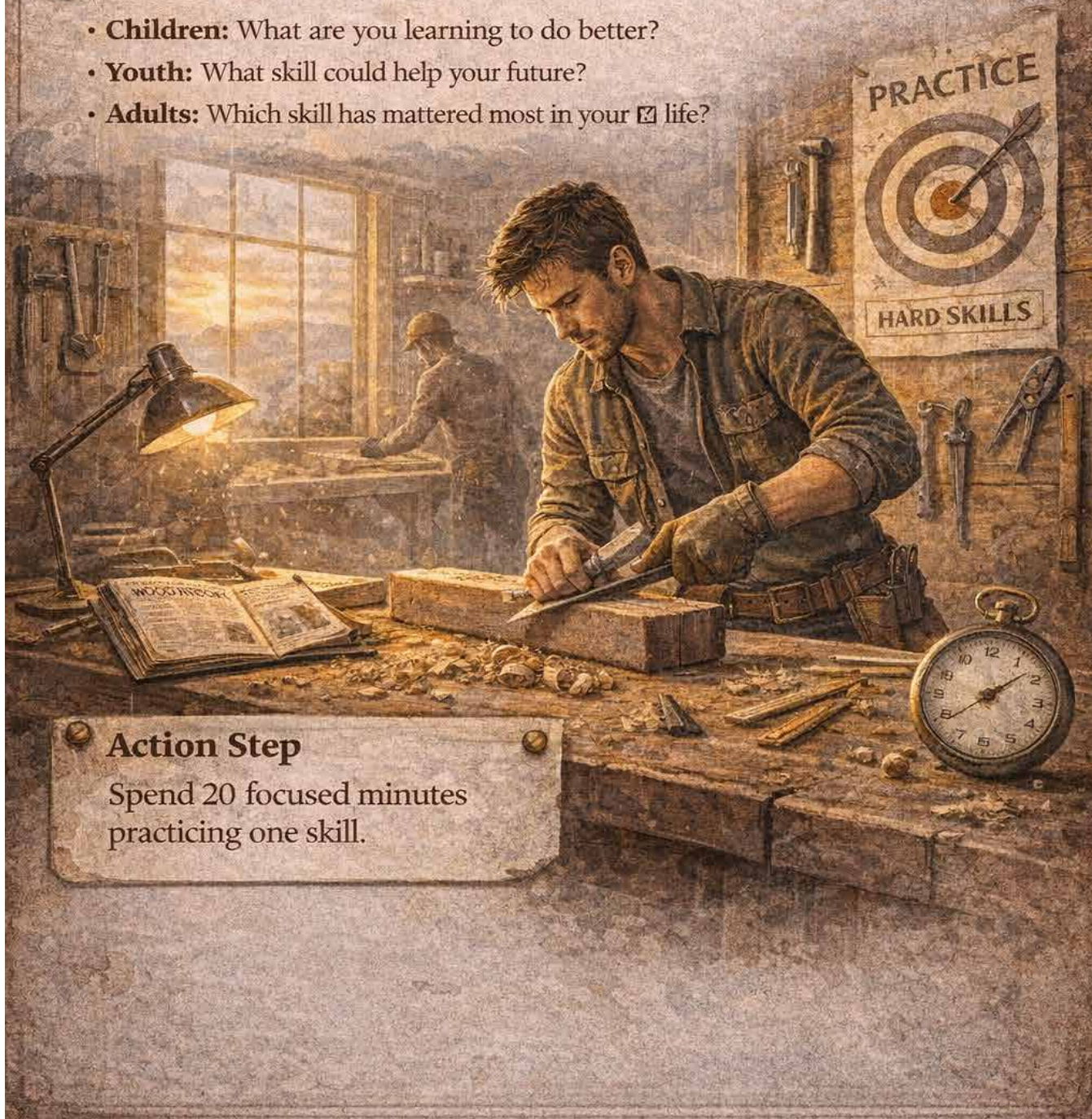
Skill turns effort into opportunity.

### Discuss

- **Children:** What are you learning to do better?
- **Youth:** What skill could help your future?
- **Adults:** Which skill has mattered most in your  life?

### Action Step

Spend 20 focused minutes practicing one skill.



# THINK LONG-TERM

## Big Idea

Good choices today shape tomorrow.



## Discuss

- **Children:** What happens if you plant a seed?
- **Youth:** Why is patience hard?
- **Adults:** What habits compounded over time?



## Action Step

Make one choice today that benefits your future self.

# MAINTAIN MORAL INDEPENDENCE

## *Big Idea*

Integrity matters more than popularity.



## ● Discuss

- **Children:** What is right even when others disagree?
- **Youth:** When have you felt pressure to fit in?
- **Adults:** What to values guide leadership?

## ● Action Step

Choose honesty today,  
even if it's uncomfortable.

# LEARN CONSTANTLY

## *Big Idea*

Learning keeps you capable.



## **Action Step**

Learn one new thing today—  
from a book, person, or mistake.

# THE STRONG BACK and CLEAR MIND

(Physical Strength)



A child who moved, ran, and rested found their thoughts sharper and their spirit steadier.

**Lesson:**

A healthy body supports a successful life.

# BE COMFORTABLE STANDING ALONE

## *Big Idea*

Leadership often begins before agreement.



## **Action Step**

Do the right thing today—  
even if no one joins you.

**TAKE RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR YOUR FUTURE**

*Action Step*

Challenge yourself to take one step beyond your comfort zone.



**Action Step**

Challenge yourself to take one step beyond your comfort zone.

# SOLVE PROBLEMS OTHERS AVOID

## *Big Idea*

Problem-solvers become leaders.




### **Action Step**

Fix one small problem without being asked.

**SPEAK CLEARLY**  
and **HONESTLY**

*Big Idea*

Clear words build trust.



This is how I  
see it...

**Action Step**

Say what you mean today—  
with respect.

# CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS

## *Big Idea*

You don't control feelings—but you control actions.



## **Action Step**

Pause before reacting today.



# BUILD, DON'T COMPLAIN

## *Big Idea*

Builders change the world.

This looks terrible.

### **Action Step**

Create something today  
instead of criticizing.

# RESPECT TIME

*Big Idea*

Time is life.



**Action Step**

Protect one uninterrupted hour.



## BE USEFUL TO OTHERS

### *Big Idea*

Value comes from service.



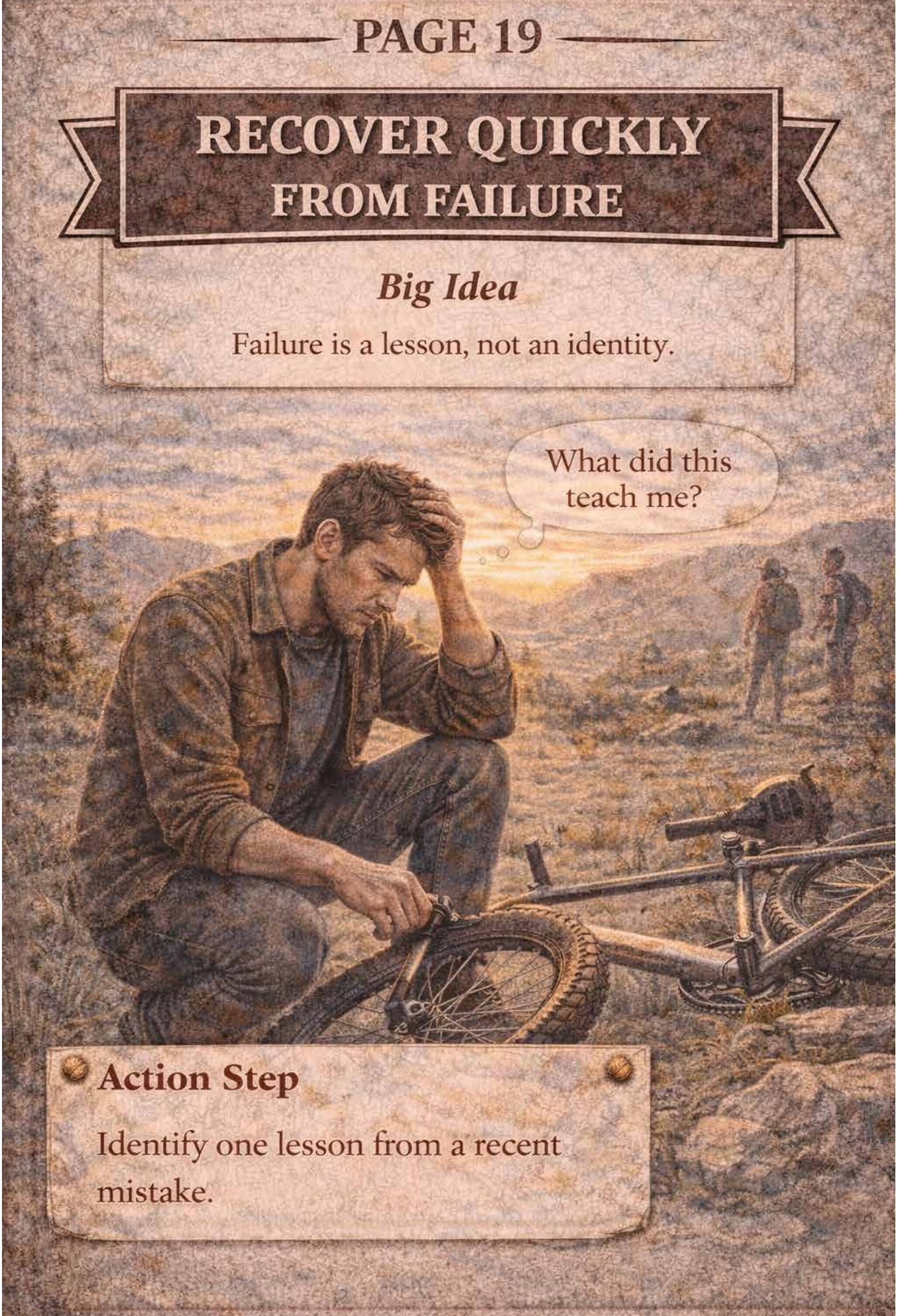
### **Action Step**

Help someone without expecting return.

# RECOVER QUICKLY FROM FAILURE

## *Big Idea*

Failure is a lesson, not an identity.



What did this  
teach me?

## **Action Step**

Identify one lesson from a recent  
mistake.

**CHOOSE YOUR CIRCLE WISELY**

*Big Idea*

People shape outcomes.



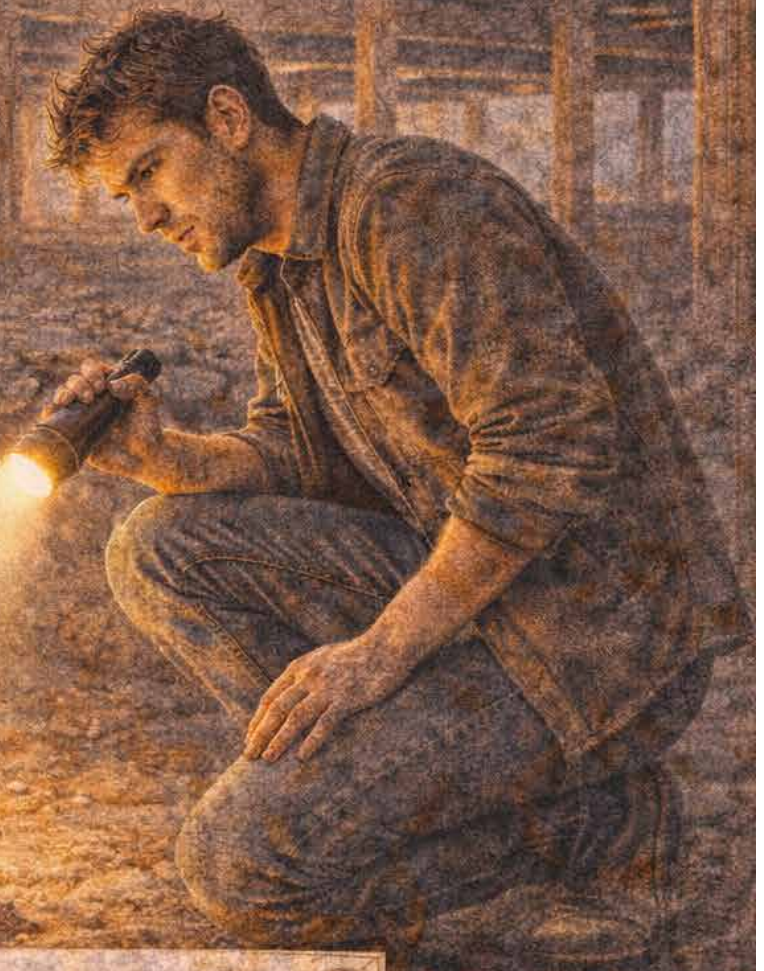
**Action Step**

Spend time with someone who encourages growth.

**STAY GROUNDED IN REALITY**

*Big Idea*

Truth builds strong foundations.



**Action Step**

Face one truth you've been avoiding.

# KEEP YOUR WORD

## *Big Idea*

Trust creates opportunity.



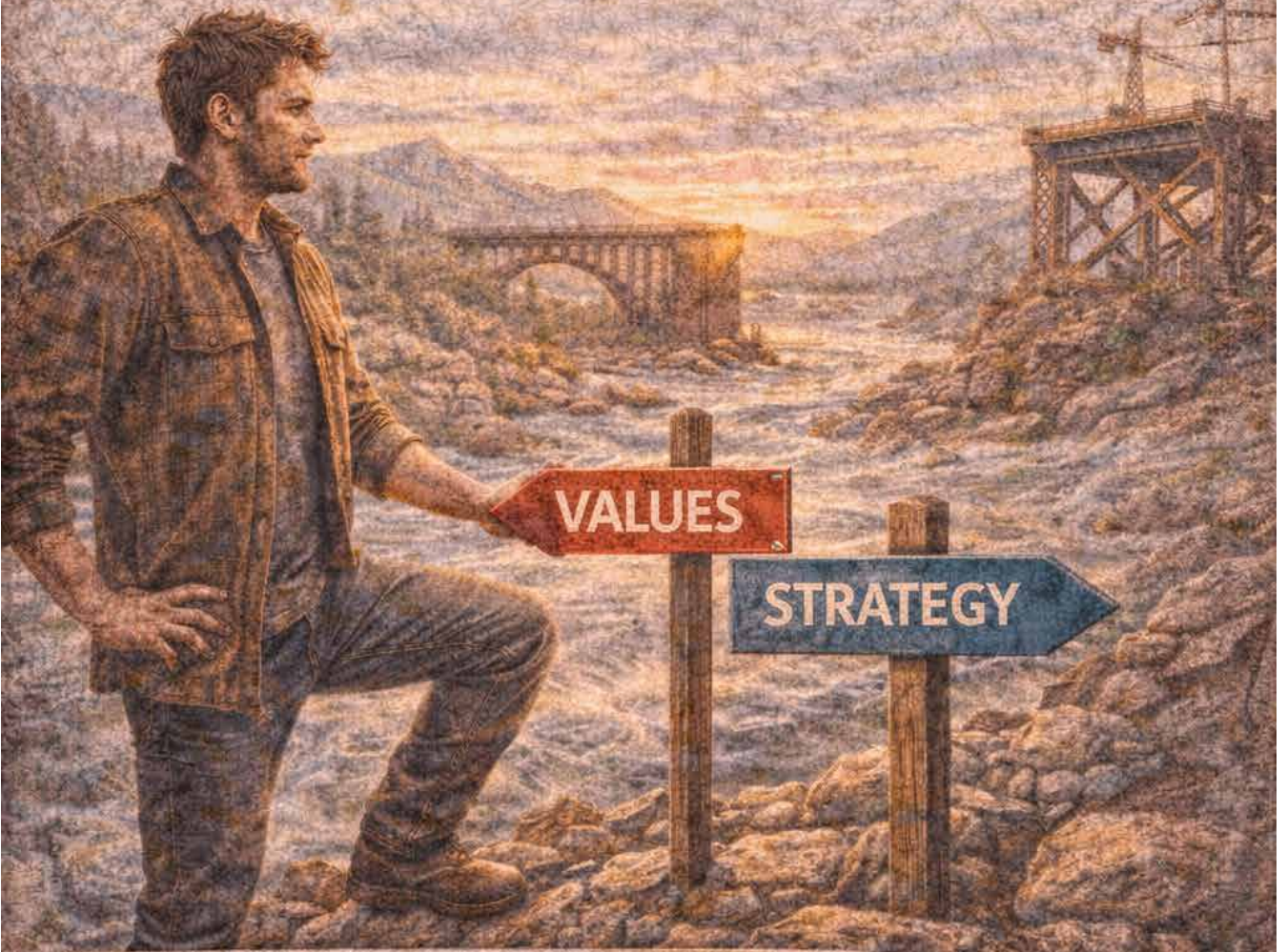
### Action Step

Follow through on a promise today.

**ADAPT WITHOUT LOSING YOURSELF**

*Big Idea*

Flexibility with principles creates resilience.



**Action Step**

Adjust a strategy—not your values.

**LEAVE THINGS BETTER**

*Big Idea*

Success is measured by what you improve.



**Action Step**

Leave one place or person better today.

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**America will never replace  
individual freedom and success  
with the binding chains  
of collective failure.**



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