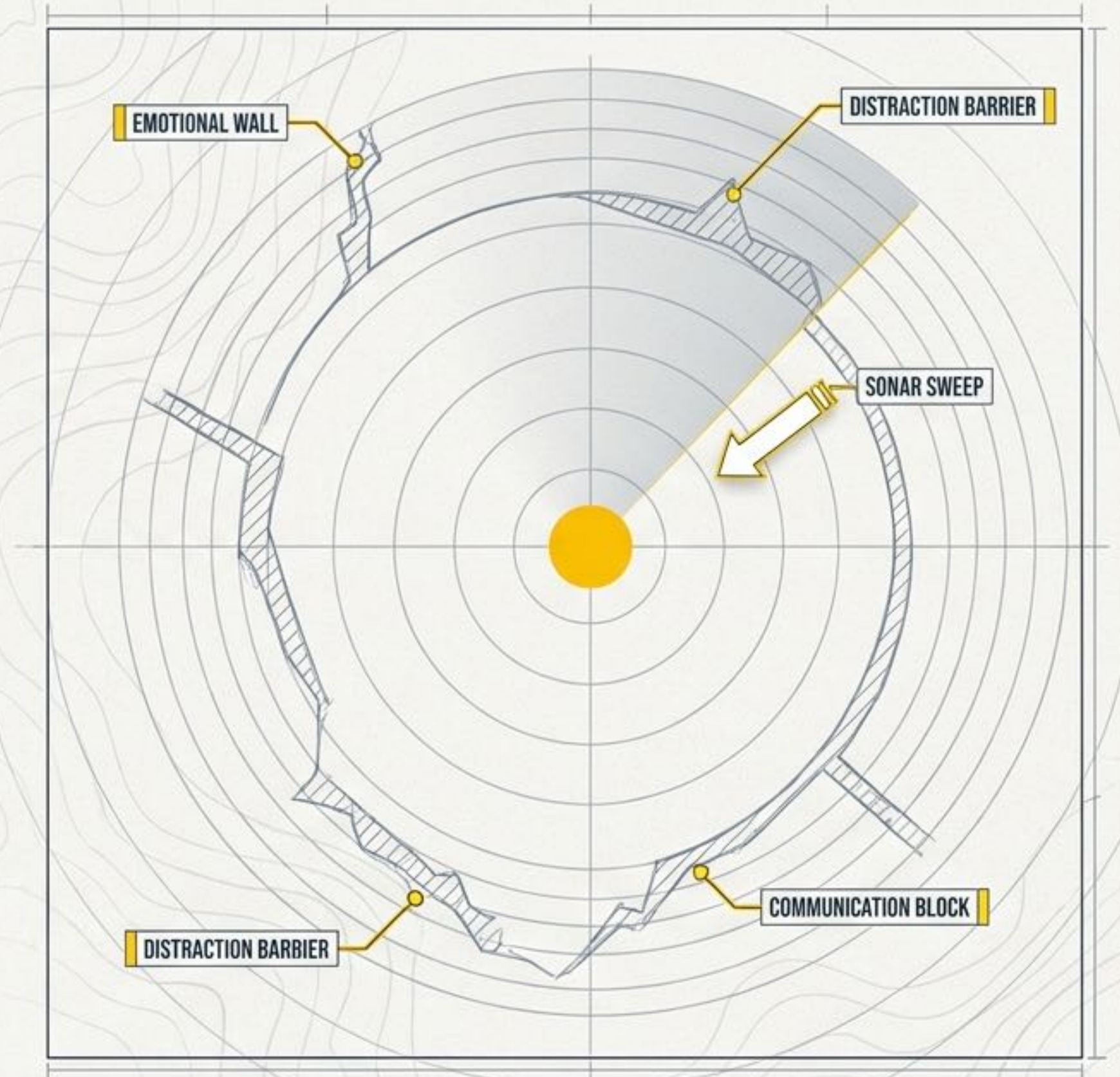


THERE, OR ACCESSIBLE?

The tactical difference between physical proximity and emotional availability.

"The opposite of connection is not conflict, it's disconnection." — Brené Brown



PRESENCE IS MERE GEOGRAPHY. AVAILABILITY REQUIRES MOVEMENT.

THE ILLUSION OF STASIS



[Physical Nearness] + [Zero Movement] = **Stasis**

You can be at every event, first in the parking lot, and last to leave—and still leave a man-shaped outline where a leader should be.

THE REALITY OF PROXIMITY



[Nearness] + [Active Initiation] = **Proximity**

The **QSource Rule: Proximity** does not occur in stasis. Being physically near a man is not the same as being reachable by him.

ARE YOU FUNCTIONALLY UNREACHABLE?

Nobody consciously decides to become unreachable. They just broadcast “closed” shamanically signals until people stop trying. Check your radar signature:



- ☐ Default response is a reflexive “Good, busy.”
- ☐ Constantly deploys humor exactly when a conversation gets real.
- ☐ Never asks a second, unprompted follow-up question.
- ☐ Relies on a “call me anytime” policy (putting the burden on others).

You do not get to grade your own availability. The only valid score comes from the people who decided not to bring their problems to you.

The ministry of sitting in the silence.

THE TRAP



Men avoid the hospital room, the funeral, or the layoff conversation because they can't perform competence in them. We hate standing there without a solution in our hands.

"Availability is a greater gift than ability." — John C. Maxwell

THE STANDARD



Job's friends got it right for exactly seven days by sitting on the ground and speaking zero words (Job 2:13). The silence was the ministry. Everything they said afterward ruined it.

ACTION: Stop trying to fix it. Just go and say: "I don't know what to say. I just didn't want you sitting alone."

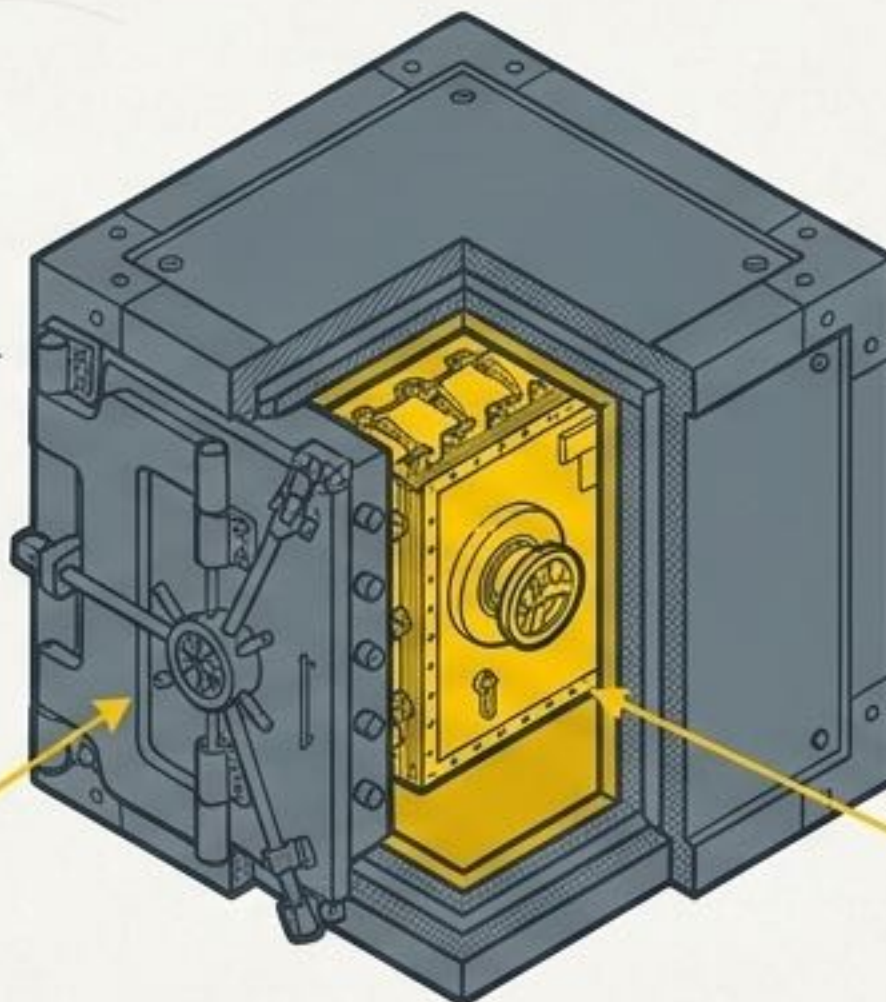
The “Call Me Anytime” trap.

	THE GOOIST (Passive)	THE INITIATOR (Active)
The Posture	Open-door policy.	Aggressively seeking truth.
The Burden	Placed entirely on the struggling man.	Carried by the leader.
The Action	Waiting for an invitation.	Asking the second question (Mark 10:51).
The Result	Missing every case that matters.	Catching men before they go under.

Insight: “Call me anytime” is a lie decent men tell. The men in real trouble do not call.

Hiding isn't protection. It is expensive vanity.

The Lie: We tell ourselves we hide our “particularized truths” (our deep struggles, fears, failures) to protect our friends and family from the weight.



The Reality: You aren't sparing anybody. You are just making sure nobody sees the part of you that isn't impressive.

“I don't want to burden them.”

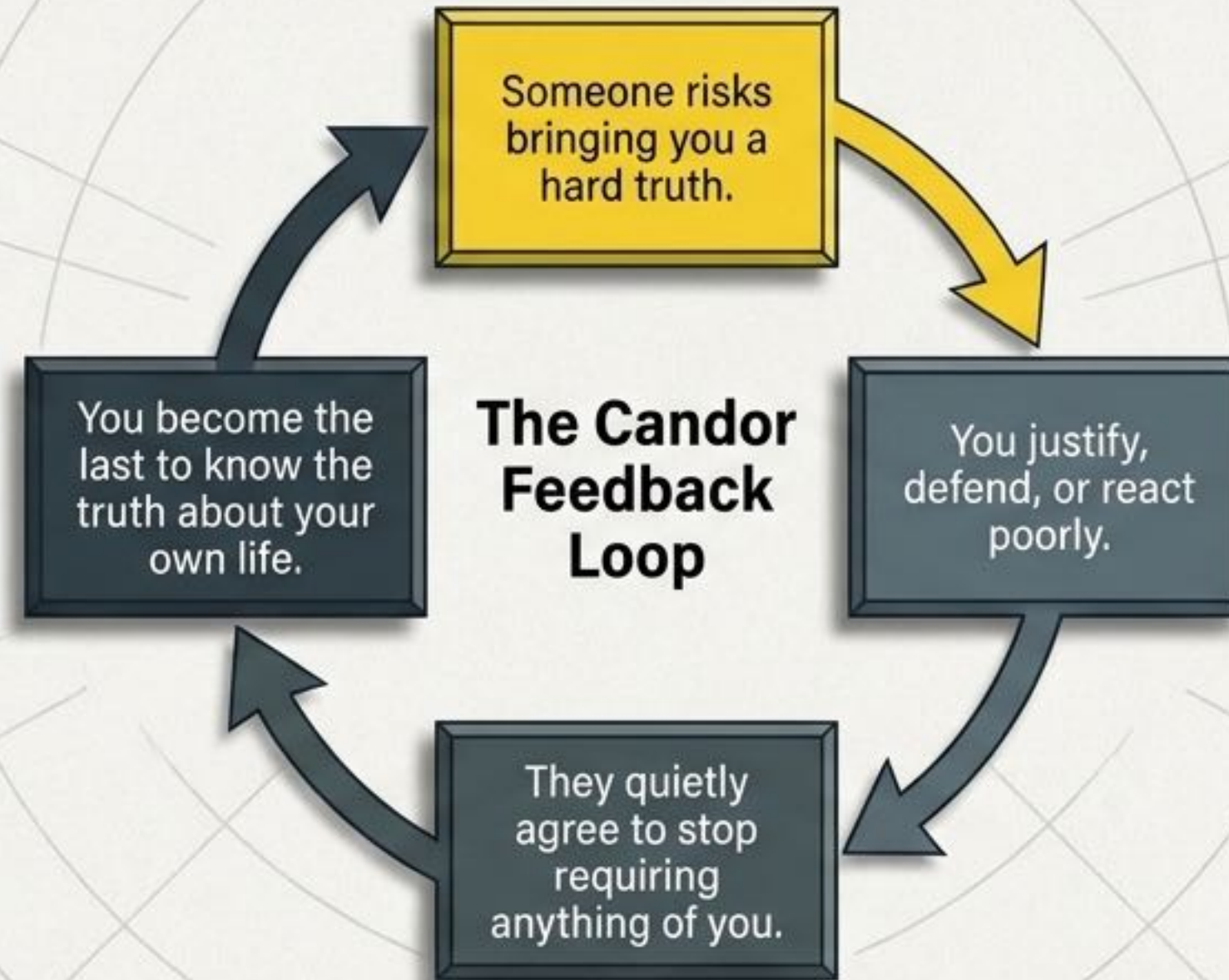
Image Management.

The Mandate: Galatians 6:2 assigns men the exact weight of bearing each other's burdens.

TAKEAWAY: A man who cannot be needed is not strong; he is just alone with better branding.

Candor is a two-way street.

The Mechanism: You don't lose access to hard truth because nobody has it. You lose it because of how you handled it the last three times.

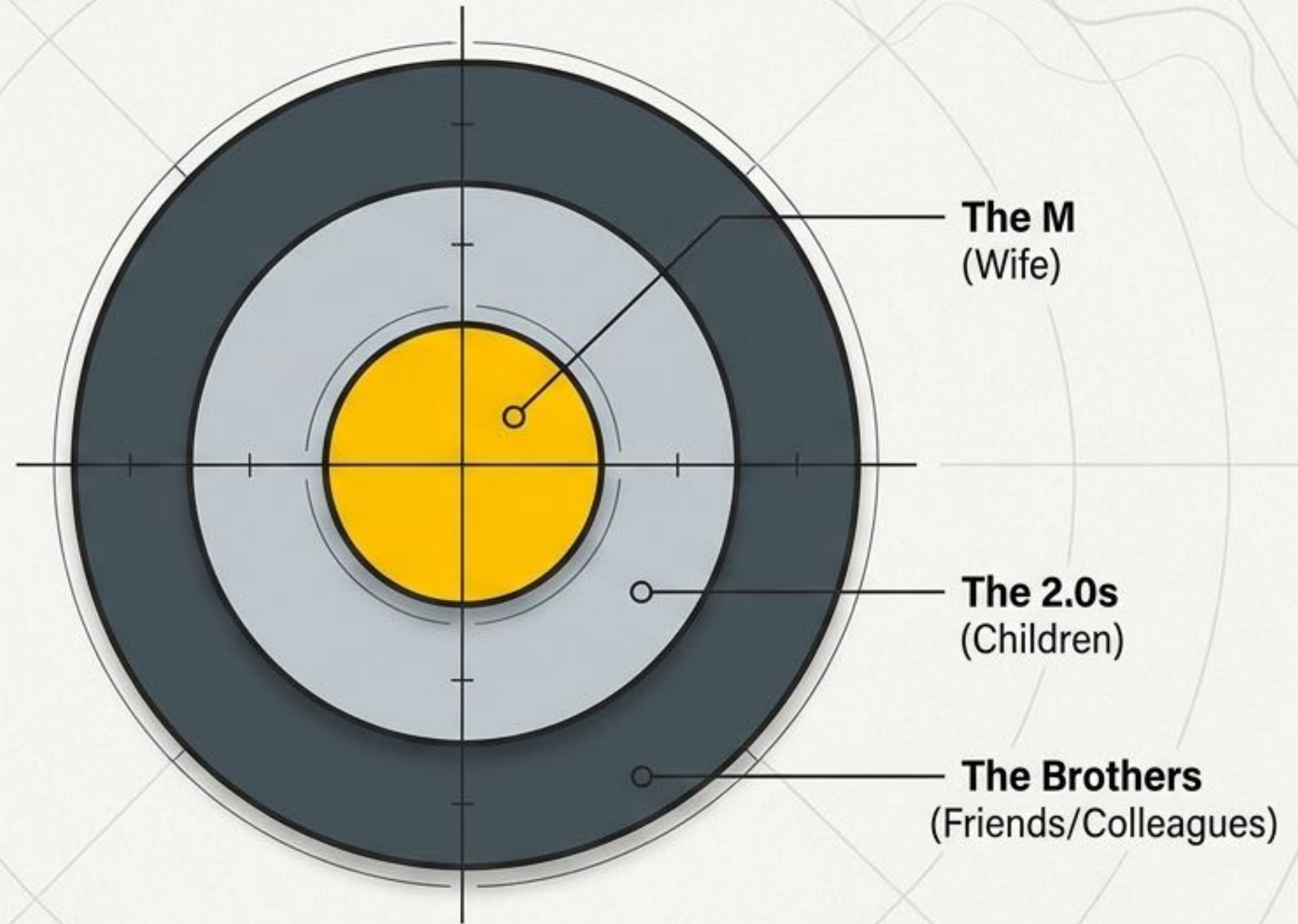


The Standard: "Whoever heeds reproof is prudent." (Proverbs 15:5). The quality of what men tell you is set entirely by what you did with the last thing they told you.

Impact requires particularized movement.

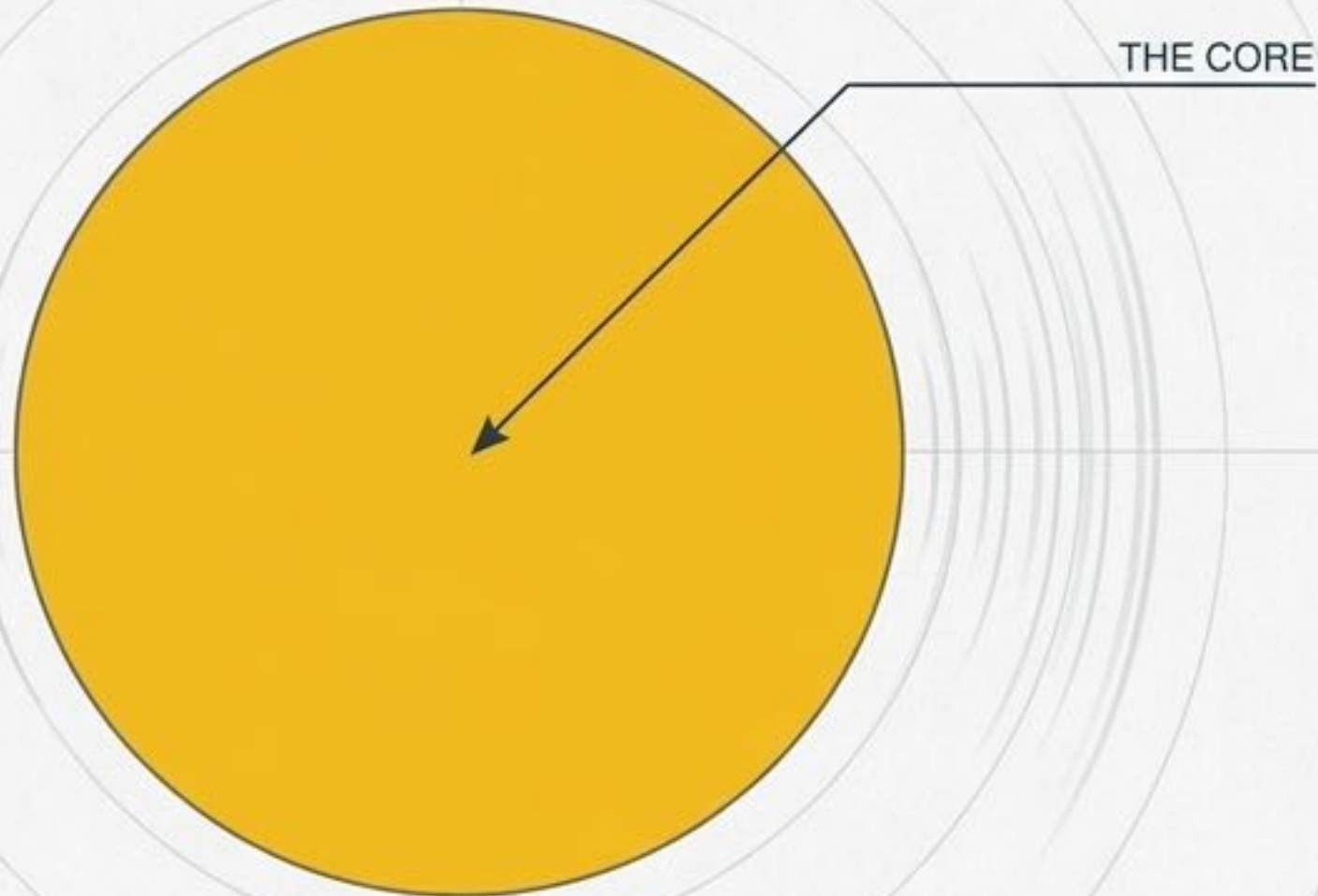
Concept: Availability is not a generalized personality trait or a warm feeling. It is a specific duty owed to specific people in your life.

Directive: Let's look at the radar. Where is your signal dropping?



The Concentrica Map

There is no maintenance setting in a marriage.



The Trap:

Men will do the hard work of emotional honesty in a circle of guys, then go home and give their wife the executive summary.

The Rule:

"If you think you are maintaining, you are actually Decelerating." (QSource)

The Standard:

"Live with your wives in an understanding way" (1 Peter 3:7). Understanding requires knowing, and knowing requires being known.

If your wife has to learn what you're carrying from your face instead of your mouth, **she's married to a report, not a man.**

Kids run continuous experiments on your reactions.

Point A
(Age 9)

Cause and Effect



Point B
(Age 19)

Child shares a bad grade.
Father reacts with visible anger.

Major life crisis.
Door remains firmly closed.

The Stakes

Children make small disclosures to test the waters, calibrating every future disclosure to that initial result.

The Danger

“Do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged” (Colossians 3:21).
“Discouraged” means a kid who has decided it isn’t worth telling you.

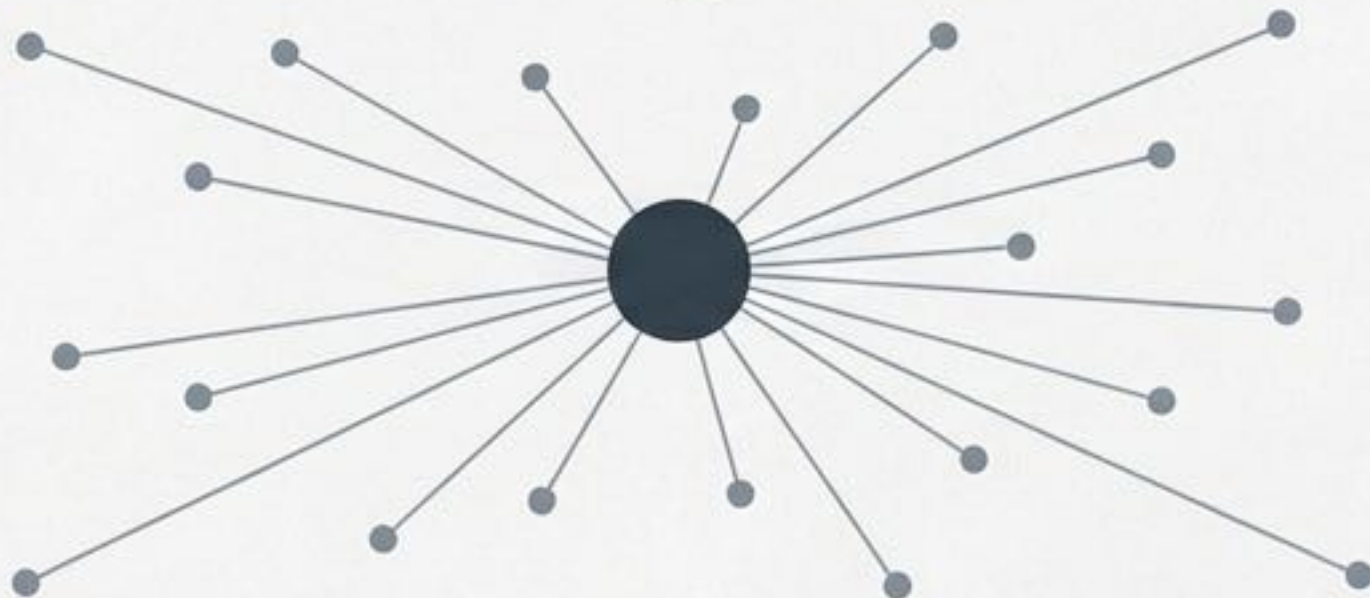
The Action

Control your face for five seconds before you speak. They have already decided what they can bring you based on evidence you don’t even remember giving.

Accumulating contacts vs. Building connection.

A man is not measured by how many people know him,
but by how many people he truly knows.

Knowing About



Truly Knowing



souls knit together (1 Samuel 18:1)

The Test

If you cannot name what a man is afraid of right now, you do not know him—you just know about his job, his handicap, and his kids' ages.

The Action

Stop accepting "busy." Ask the second question. Then ask a third.

The One who moved first.

The Synthesis

You are not being asked to manufacture emotional openness by sheer force of will. The Christian story turns entirely on God's availability.



The Model

Christ did not run an open-door policy and wait in heaven. He moved first, toward people who weren't asking, at infinite cost (Romans 5:8).

The Access

He made Himself reachable without an appointment, so we can "draw near to the throne of grace" (Hebrews 4:15–16).

Takeaway: Grace received leaks outward. You are only asked to extend a fraction of the access that was already given to you.

Availability stays a theory until it hits your calendar.

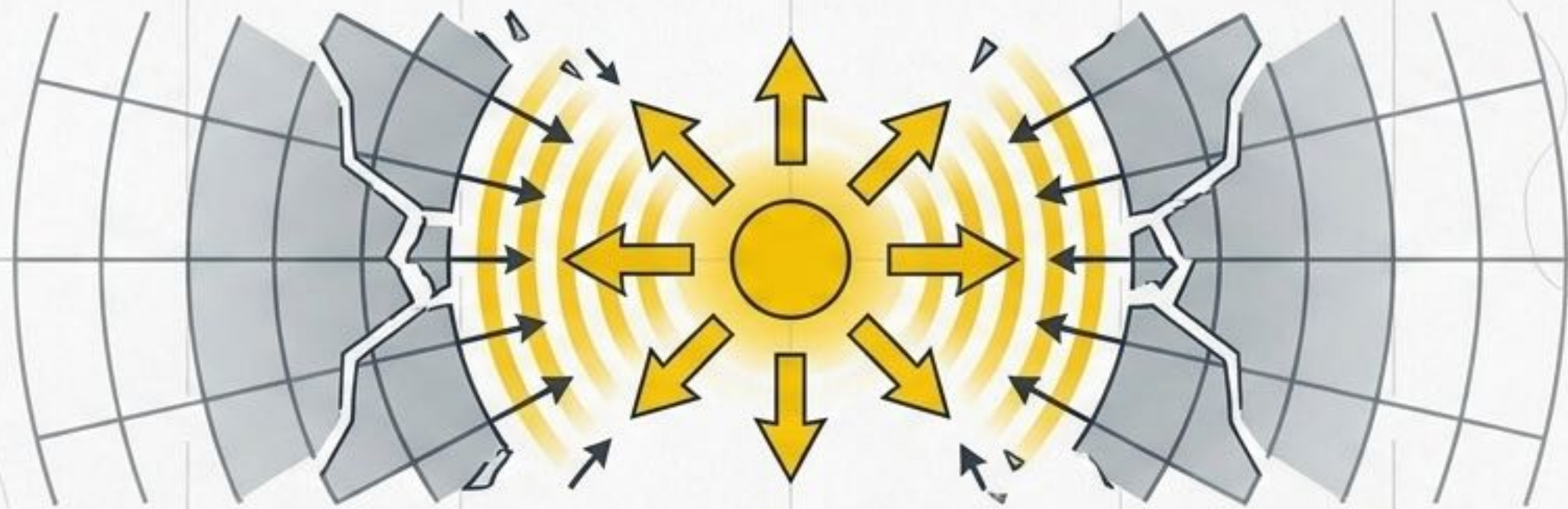
CARD 1: THE OUTWARD MOVE

- Name one man you've had a passing thought about.
- Check on him without being asked.
- When he inevitably says "fine," ask the second question.

CARD 2: THE INWARD MOVE (The harder one)

- Name one person (M, 2.0, or brother).
- Tell them one true thing you have been managing entirely alone.
- Not the resolved version—the messy, current one.

A leader nobody can reach is just standing there.



Presence is cheap; availability costs something. Real availability runs in both directions: you must be the kind of man others can safely bring hard things to, and the kind of man who moves toward others before he is asked.

Nobody is going to send you a notification when your door has closed. You have to check it yourself.