



SHACKLETON'S WAY

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE GREAT ANTARCTIC EXPLORER



PART 2 / LEARNING
TO BE A LEADER



Born in Ireland in 1874,
Shackleton's family moved to
London when he was six.

At school, he was perceived as
different. He knew what it was like
to be the outsider.

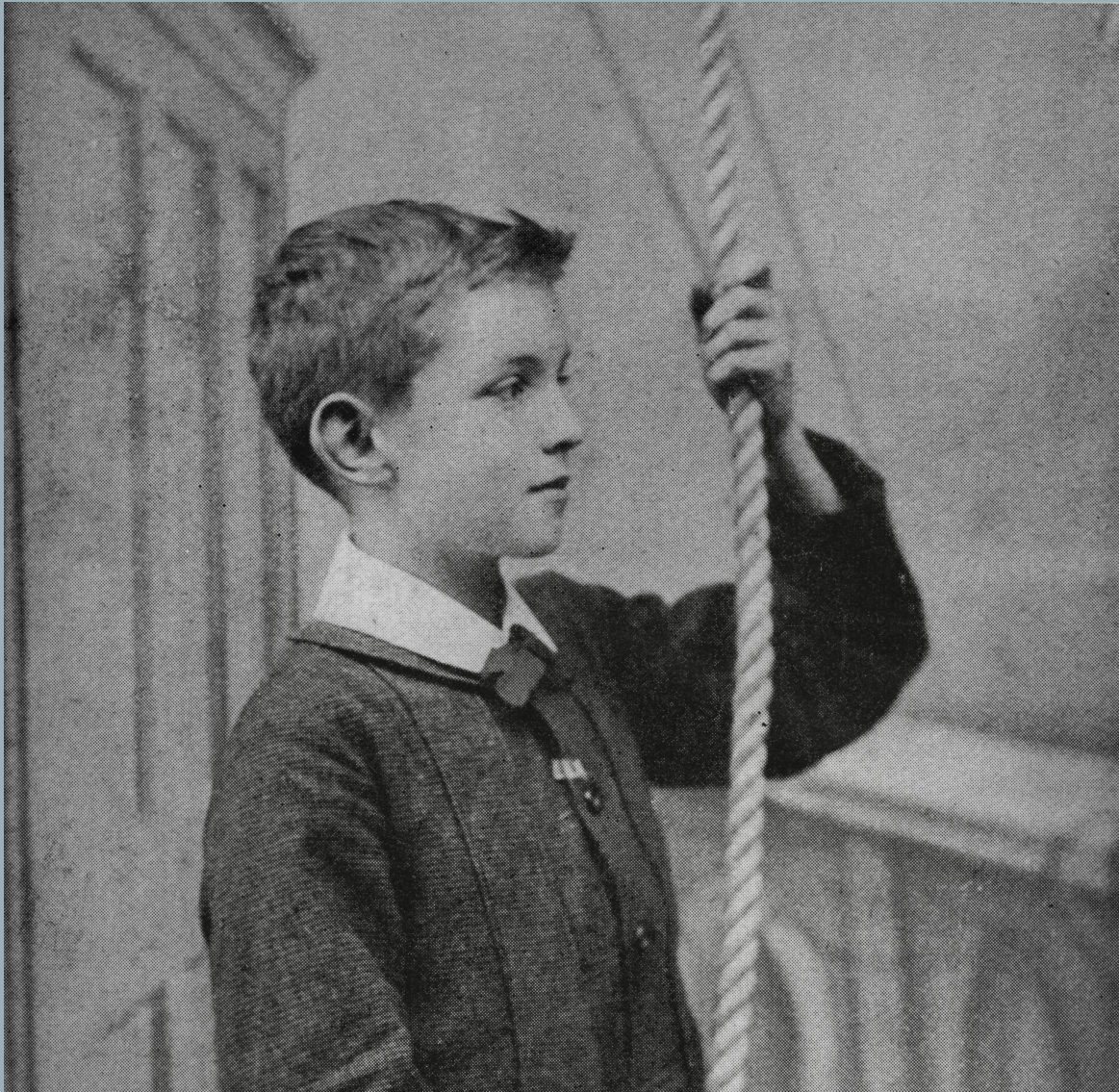
Image: Shackleton Family home in Sydenham,
southeast London.



Ernest Shackleton got his first taste of leadership as the oldest son in a family of ten children.

He encouraged his sisters to pursue their interests and have great careers - as an artist, a customs official, a chef, a midwife, and a writer.

Image: SHACKLETON AT 11.



Through his siblings, he learned how to motivate a group to achieve a goal.



Shackleton left school at 16 to join the merchant navy.

On his first voyage, he glimpsed his future when his ship rounded Cape Horn “in the depth of winter.”

He later wrote, “I felt strongly drawn towards the mysterious South.”

Image: Shackleton at 16



On this first voyage, Shackleton was homesick and unhappy, but he had a great captain who ran an efficient ship and hosted the apprentices to dinner on Sundays. They finished off the evenings with singalongs. Shackleton took note.



On Shackleton's next voyage, he wasn't as lucky in his captain. Under this leader, the ship was poorly run and required much more work.

Again, Shackleton took note.



Shackleton endured a “rough” apprenticeship at sea, but it was worth it.

He wrote years later, “I dreamed prodigiously about big things ahead... No, it wasn’t anything ambitious in the way of becoming a hero; that never occurred to me. It was rather a feeling that great adventures lay ahead, ADVENTURES GREAT ENOUGH TO BE WORTH THE HARDSHIPS OF TRAINING FOR THEM... But all the same, while I dreamed in this way, I STUCK TO MY JOB, DETERMINED TO SUCCEED AT IT.”

Image: Shackleton at 33.



In 1901, 27-year-old Shackleton fought hard to win a place on Captain Robert F. Scott's *Discovery* Expedition.

On this expedition, Shackleton emerged as a leader. He served as editor of the first magazine produced in Antarctica, "The South Polar Times."

With Capt. Scott and Dr. Edward Wilson, he set a record for "Farthest South" in December 1902.

Image: Shackleton, Scott, Wilson

Back in London, Shackleton married Emily Dorman, and started a family which grew to include Raymond, Cecily and Edward.

Shackleton worked as a journalist, as Secretary of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in Edinburgh, and dabbled in politics, but he felt drawn to return to Antarctica and try again to capture the great prize - the South Pole.

With independent funding from backers, he organized the British Antarctic Expedition – usually referred to by the name of the expedition's ship, *Nimrod*.



A photograph of a massive glacier wall meeting the ocean. The glacier is a deep blue color, showing vertical crevasses and horizontal layers. The water is dark blue with several icebergs floating in the foreground. The sky is overcast and grey.

In the next section, we'll look at how Shackleton put what he had learned about leadership into practice.