



# Legends & Mysteries: Shackleton's Incredible Journey

## SYNOPSIS

### **Scene One: Shackleton, The Man**

*(Spotlight opens up on Lady Emily Shackleton standing and dressed in Victorian attire with a wide-brimmed hat.)* Lady Shackleton proceeds to introduce our presentation by allowing the audience to feel the personal attachment to her and her family as people. However, her soliloquy also introduces our purpose and some intriguing details of her husband.

### **Scene Two: Let Me Make It Perfectly Clear**

From the time Shackleton selected his crew, **he was very clear on the purpose and plan.** The crew he selected all embraced that **common or shared plan.** Everyone benefited from Shackleton's clarity of purpose and transparency of plans. Every person on the journey **joined knowing not only of the purpose but also the dangers** that could be ahead in the voyage.

### **Scene Three: Getting to Know You: Creating Trust and Feeling Safe**

Shackleton was a model and inspired optimism. He was enthusiastic. His enthusiasm was contagious. Shackleton also encouraged fun activities, games, singing, and other ways to help keep the spirits high and optimistic! **Shackleton knew that this positivity would carry his men through potentially tough times.**

### **Scene Four: We Not Me**

Shackleton knew that his men would have to possess **loyalty and a high degree of work ethic** to withstand the potential hardships and accomplish the mission. **Shackleton knew that he, as a leader, must foster these important characteristics in his men.** He made it a point to **know each of his men individually.** He knew that the **unity** of their purpose was **not based upon 100 percent agreement but on allowing them to feel free to have an acceptable way to come to him with their concerns and to feel free to approach him in a constructive way.** His men felt heard and they returned their faith in Shackleton and his purpose. Time after time, Shackleton showed his men that **his decisions and priorities were with them even above the initial mission.**

### **Scene Five: A Plan Is Important, But Plans Can Change If Need Be**

Shackleton changed one plan four times because of new information or new challenges presented by things he could not control. Shackleton never allowed his pride or obstinance stand in the way. He knew that his **initial plan and subsequent alternative plans must be flexible in order for his men to survive**. Shackleton's openness in communication and flexibility in process instilled more trust from his men and provided more opportunities for survival of his crew.

### **Scene Six: Difficulties Are Also Opportunities. Choose To Confront Rather Than Avoid.**

Sir Ernest Shackleton was faced with **many tough and difficult decisions**. **He neither denied nor passed off those decisions to others**. **His decisions were always rooted in "what was in the best interest of his men."** Can you only imagine making a decision to take one of their life boats and a few men to sail 800 miles through treacherous seas and ultimately return to his 22 stranded men four months after leaving because he knew he alone was responsible for their survival. **There were no other possibilities than his own ingenuity and responsibility to save his men**. Even after isolation, hardships like hunger, lack of protection from the elements, and doubt, Shackleton's men regaled him as "the greatest leader on earth." This praise came even after the initial goal of the mission had failed. These attributes help illustrate for us that some things are far more important than just 'winning.'

### **Scene Seven: Make A Difference. Make A Life.**

Spotlight opens up on Lady Emily Shackleton. Lady Shackleton speaks to the audience to bring a summary of our presentation while also inviting the audience to apply the leadership lessons learned from Ernest Shackleton's model to their own lives.