

# MCLAUGHLIN



*Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity*



## SLI: MODULE 1 - ORLANDO, FL



*Such diversity in our family! Lucia is probably obvious as Elsa, Hudson went with Power Rangers, and JT...Darth Vader.*



*The kids first time to a skate birthday party...Gave Natalie and I an idea for a date!*



*Props to Ryan Schreiter who booked us up with tickets to a Univ. of Cincinnati vs. Temple football game in 25 degree weather!*



When was the last time you had a team of very qualified and creative leaders take personal, vested interest in you for an entire week?

If you are like me, then it would be a new experience. That is why I am so thankful for the time I had with SLI. I recently returned from Orlando, FL where I attended the first of four module trainings in this SLI endeavor. I truly felt cared for by our leadership staff and the SLI Design team. This first module I attended is built around the focus of *Foundations*. The aim is to establish a foundation for leadership using Cru's Leadership Framework and Growth Model along side an increased understanding of the coaching approach to leadership.

In each module SLI's goal of "leaders developed" is funneled through five main components: **Action learning** – a stretch opportunity that teaches skills in project management and working with a team. **Growth Model** – leading oneself and others in the Spirit of grace and truth. **Self-awareness** – growing in confidence in our unique strengths and contributions. **The Leadership Framework** – leading in the roles and responsibilities of an organizational leader. **Multi-cultural** – valuing and effectively adapting leadership styles to multi-ethnic contexts.

My takeaway: To the right is the Chinese character "ting" meaning 'listen'. The Chinese language is constructed in a way that it's characters reflect the idea of it's core meaning. Just google this word and you will see what I mean. God is growing me in my "Assertive 'Ting'ing". That is, He is growing me in my active listening skills. Feel free to call me for more on this, however, very simply put, the character for 'ting' is built around the basic components of listening- Ear, Eyes, Attention, and Heart. There is certainly more to it than I can write here however I simply wanted to share about a significant personal growth lesson.





*Mini Vacation: Decided to take a 2-day vacation at the nearby Great Wolf Lodge! We survived! Actually was a blast with great memories!*

### Prayer Requests

1. Pray for our baseball department as we continue the journey God has us on with health and life challenges. We have so much to be thankful for, however we are being challenged in some significant ways.
2. Pray for John as he works out the logistics preparing the International Team. Right now he is confirming dates and locations with Panama and Guatemala. In particular, pray for Isaac and Gregory in Panama and Cristobal in Guatemala.
3. Pray also for the players who have already been assigned to one of our summer teams. Pray the Lord provides their financial support and the Lord, even now, begins to prepare their hearts for what He will challenge them with over the summer.

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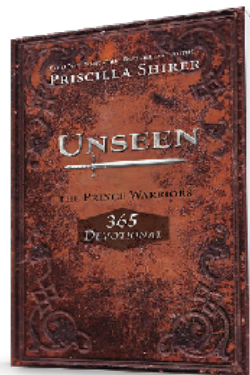
### FATHER/SON YEAR COMMITMENT

Because of a number of parenting situations that recently came up with my boys (i.e. lying, “stealing,” etc.), I began praying through how I might begin to address some core character values with them. My aim was to simply find a creative way to teach, challenge, and explore what ‘character’ was, why it is important, and how it could practically be lived out in their world. Since my boys (and me for that matter if I am being honest) have short attention spans, I was looking for a reward-based-structure that would yield work, consistency, grace, and truth and would allow the opportunity for us to see growth over a period of time. My research led to a resource through Christian Service Brigade (CSB).

This logo, the CSB's logo, depicts their values which is exactly what I was looking for. I bought some dog tags, which were offered on the ministry site of CSB, that has their values on them. I also discovered CSB had unique collectors coins that matched other coins that JT and Hudson’s grandfather had given them a number of months ago.



These items ultimately became great rewards for the kids that they could be excited about. As for the material, I bought a simple, yet “warrior” like, devotional that was sure to capture the imagination and interest of the boys... *Unseen, The Prince Warriors*. This is a 365 day devotional is connecting the spiritual battles we daily face with how God has uniquely equipped us with His armor (Ephesians Chapter 6).



Our goal is to read one devotional in the evenings and at the end of the 365 days we'll celebrate with a special necklace for each of us and unique Armer of God statue for each. We have yet to see the full depth of growth but I am trusting God by not only planting seeds but for him to do the work on our spiritual soil.

I am very thankful to the Lord for the idea and how this has all come together in a way that has created great momentum with JT and Hudson. In fact, Lucia is now requesting something similar from Natalie!