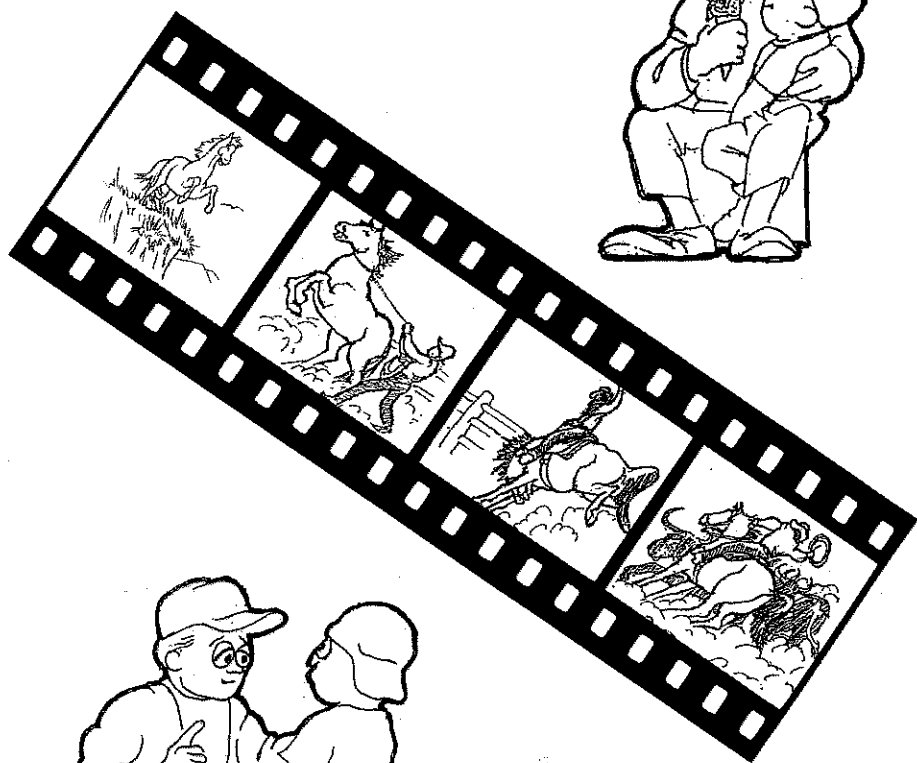


TRAINING IN THE WAY TO GO

April 7, 2019

*Train up a child in the way he should go.
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.*
Proverbs 22:6



TRAINING IN THE WAY TO GO PLAN A
 "For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for your welfare...to give you a future."
 Jeremiah 29:11



Child with a good attitude



"And I said, 'You shall call Me, 'My Father,' and not turn away from following Me.'" Jeremiah 3:19

"I am Thy servant; give me understanding." Psalm 119:125

TRAINING IN THE WAY TO GO PLAN B
 "According to their transgressions, I dealt with them."
 Ezekiel 39:24



Child with a bad attitude

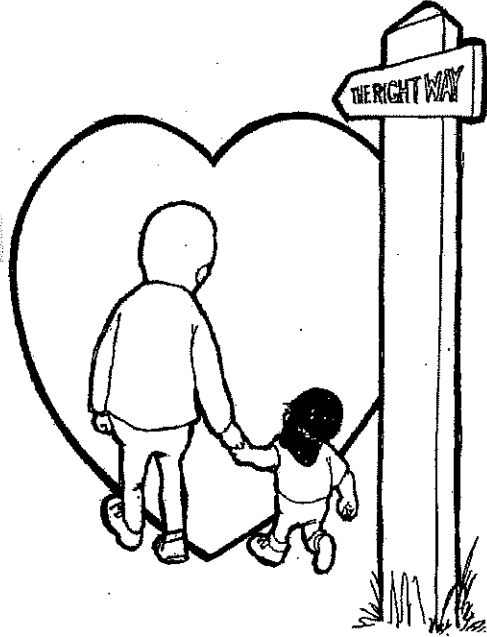


"All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned his own way." Isaiah 53:6

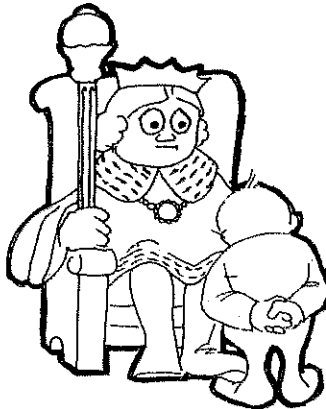
"Then they will know that I am the Lord their God because I made them go into exile." Ezekiel 39:28

THE WAY TO GO

Child with a good attitude



Change of heart



"So choose life... by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice and by holding fast to Him." Deuteronomy 30:19-20

"I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord; and Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.'" Psalm 32:5

TRAINING IN THE WAY TO GO Plan A

1. In the Old Testament, God revealed that He was the **Father** of Israel. All of His interactions with Israel can be understood as the action of a father, compassionately and righteously dealing with his child. His intention was to offer His child His teachings-*torah*-and enjoy fellowship as His child accompanied Him on the right way to go (**wisdom**) *"And I said, 'You shall call Me, My Father, and not turn away from following Me.'" (Jer. 3:19).*
2. If His child valued the fellowship and the teachings, he would submit to his Father's authority and receive discipline from Him as a disciple. A **disciple** is a student (a learner) who is in fellowship with his teacher and is becoming like his teacher. Discipline is training or practicing doing it right. *"Thus you are to know that the Lord your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son" (Deut 8:5).*
3. With that **good attitude** of a disciple, the child would then continue to accompany his Father in an increasingly close fellowship and receive His teaching along the path of wisdom, the right way to go. *"And your ears will hear a word behind you, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right or to the left" (Is 30:21).*

So long as Israel submitted to God's authority, remained in discipleship and chose the right way to go, Israel could enjoy the companionship and discipline of God like a child with his father. This was "Plan A".

TRAINING IN THE WAY TO GO Plan B

4. God is perfect and so He can only go the right way, the way of **wisdom**. When Israel chose to go his own way, which was frequently the case, the Father dealt with His child wisely, patiently, righteously and faithfully, awaiting the inevitable results. His child would have to learn of the supreme value of wisdom and fellowship with the Father through the stress of **isolation**. *"With the pure, Thou dost show Thyself pure, with the crooked, Thou dost show Thyself astute" (Ps 18:26).*
5. The boredom, frustration and loneliness of isolation produce the stress necessary for a **change of heart**. The memories of fellowship give the hope of forgiveness. *"For I am ready to fall, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I confess my iniquity, I am full of anxiety because of my sin." (Ps 38:17-18).*
6. Because of God's attractiveness as Father, Israel in isolation would miss the fellowship, regret his attitude, repent and return to the rule of the Perfect Parent, confessing and sincerely seeking forgiveness. *"But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word" (Is 66:2).*

After reconciliation and the restoration of fellowship, disciplining could resume. The Father and child could resume their walk together along the right way to go.

This was Plan B.

A DISCIPLE is a learner who is changing and becoming like his teacher. He changes through repentance. His success depends on four building blocks.

