

LESSON 1



TRAINING OUR YOUTH FOR THE WAY OF LIFE

Scripture Texts: Joshua 1:7-9; Psalm 19:7-14; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

In this series of lessons we shall study some of the more important aspects of the training that our children must receive to become successful in life and the source from which this help must come.

MEMORY VERSE: *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

Proverbs 22:6

Help From the Crippling Effect of Improper Training

The way is the highway of holiness. To maintain a Christian home, all parties must assume and accept their own responsibilities within the family group. To be a success in the way of life, the child must be trained for his great responsibility as a child, as a teenager, and as an adult, so he will not be a cripple in any aspect of the way in the years to follow.

Training means much more than teaching. First, children must be trained to submit to the laws of the home by word and example. Then, they must be trained to obey the laws of the land and the laws of God by word and example also. They must be taught how to respect the rights and feelings of others. Show love, but be firm when teaching the laws of the home. Show the same love and firmness when judgment and discipline are used. A child who has not been trained properly in obedience at home, in sharing his time, toys, and other things will have a deficiency in character that will result in a crippled condition as he walks through life and he will have trouble submitting his will in obedience to God's laws. We see this many times in folks who are back and forth to an altar of prayer. We call it an up-and-down experience, or a limp in their walk with God.

Training means to direct the growth of, to form by instruction, discipline or drill, and to teach so as to be fitted or qualified and prepared for the greatest tests of life. We should never think that this will just happen by chance. It will take many hours of prayer and tears to successfully bring this training. The time to begin this training is during the months that the child is being formed by praying and dedicating him to God. The training should not stop until he is out from under parental care and guidance. To wait until school age to begin to train the child will be too late. What is done cannot be altered, but we can begin NOW in the right direction. God is ready to help us.

A Good Training Program

The military knows the benefits of a good plan for a balanced training program. Much of its program can be helpful to us with our children. They check up and treat any defects. They let you know your rights. They inform you of the rules and the punishment for those who break the rules or laws. They tell you what time the lights go out and what time they come on. They have a compulsory exercise plan. They make changes in your eating habits, in how you dress, and in your outward appearance; and they train you to be an expert in your particular field of work. They do all this diligently with close observation and testing. Your mind and body are disciplined in preparation

for a great, responsible task ahead, that of defending our country. Character and personality hangups caused by improper training by parents can hinder children from being useful to God.

JUST A THOUGHT

Those who deserve love least, need it most.