

The Way I Should Go

Stories for Training Your Child Volume I



“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” - Proverbs 22:6 KJV

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Obedience

Ephesians 6:1 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. NIV



Obey Right Away

Seven-year-old Tommy was sitting on the floor with his toy train set. His five-year-old sister Lily was at the table drawing pictures. Tommy very carefully connected each piece of train track, one by one, into an impressive path of twists and turns. His mom walked into the room, "Nice job, Tommy, have you tried putting the train on it yet?"

"Not yet," answered Tommy, "I have a few more pieces to go." Mom sat down beside Lily and started looking at her pictures.

Just then, Dad walked through the room, carrying a load of wood in his arms. "Are you going to build us a fire, Daddy?" Lily asked.

"Yes, I am, sweetheart," Dad answered.

Lily smiled, "I'm going to draw a picture of a warm fire next. I'll bring it to you when it's done!"

"I can't wait to see it!" said Dad as he turned his head to look at Tommy. "Tommy, there's a pile of newspaper on the floor by the back door. Go get it and bring it into the family room for me."

"Ok, Dad," Tommy answered as his dad walked out of the room to start the fire. A minute passed, and Tommy was still on the floor putting pieces of his train track together. Another minute went by. As he reached for another piece, he heard Lily say to their Mom, "Look, the fire in my picture is just as big as the ones Daddy makes."

Suddenly, Tommy jumped up and ran for the back door. A moment later he was headed toward the family room with the pile of

newspaper his dad told him to get. Returning to his train track, he knelt on the floor and started putting the final pieces together.

"I'm going to put all our names on the picture," said Lily proudly, as she started writing L-I-L-Y for her own name, "and I know how to spell 'Mommy' and 'Daddy'." She added their names to the picture. She looked at her mother, "I forget how to spell Tommy's name."

Just then the phone rang. "I have to go answer the phone," said Mom, "Tommy, come show your sister how to spell your name."

"I will," said Tommy. Instead of standing up, he reached for his toy train cars and started putting them on the track.

Lily swung her legs on her chair at the table, "Come on, Tommy, the fire is going to be ready. I need to show Daddy my picture."

"I will," said Tommy again, as he picked up yet another train car.

Mom walked back into the room, "How does it look, Lily? Did you get Tommy's name finished?"

"No," said Lily sadly, "Tommy won't come to help. He keeps building his train track."

Mom looked at Tommy. "Tommy, come into the family room with me," said Mom. His hand reached for another piece. "Now," said Mom.

Tommy got up and followed his mother to the family room couch. Sitting down next to him, she said, "Tommy, the first part of obedience is doing what you're told right away, as fast as snapping your fingers. When your dad told you to bring him the newspaper earlier, did you do it?"

"Yeah!" said Tommy, "It's sitting right over there, see?" Tommy pointed to the stack of remaining newspaper.

"Did you start doing it as fast as a snap?" Mom quickly snapped her fingers together, "Did you get up right away to do what you were told?"

Tommy scratched his head, "Uh, I just had to put a few more pieces on my train track."

Mom put her hand on his knee, "If you don't do it right away, it's still disobedience. Dad did not say to bring it to him after you finished the track. And after that, I told you to help Lily spell your name. Did you do that right away? As fast as a snap of your fingers?"

"No," Tommy said sadly, "That one I didn't do at all."

"When you are told to do something," Mom went on, "God wants you to do it right away. Even if you're having fun and you don't want to stop. It's more important to obey God and your parents." Mom put her hand on Tommy's shoulder, "So, how quickly do we obey?"

"Right away," said Tommy, "as fast as a snap of your fingers."

"That's right," said Mom, "Now, there was something you were told to do for your sister. Do it in a snap this time."

Tommy got up off the couch and went to help his sister; this time, he obeyed **right away**.