

## **THE MONKEY STORY**

A researcher put four monkeys in a large cage. High inside the cage, he hung a banana on a string and then placed a set of stairs under the banana.

Before long, a monkey went to the stairs and climbed toward the banana.

When that happened, the researcher sprayed ALL the monkeys with cold water.

After a while, another monkey made an attempt. As soon as he touched the stairs, the researcher sprayed ALL the monkeys with cold water.

The monkeys learned, and pretty soon, when any monkey tried to climb the stairs, the other monkeys would prevent it from doing so.

Then the researcher put away the cold water. He then removed one monkey from the cage and replaced it with a new monkey. The new monkey saw the banana and attempted to climb the stairs. To his shock, ALL of the other monkeys beat up the new monkey. After another attempt and attack, this new monkey learned for sure that if he tried to climb the stairs, he would be assaulted.

Next, the researcher removed another of the original four monkeys, replacing it with another new monkey. The newcomer went to the stairs and was attacked. The previous newcomer also took part in the punishment – with enthusiasm – because he had learned his lesson and was now part of the "team."

Then, the researcher replaced the third original monkey with a new monkey. After this new monkey moved to the stairs and was attacked, the researcher replaced the fourth monkey. Every time the newest monkey took to the stairs, he was attacked.

At that point, the monkeys that were beating him up had no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs.

Neither did they know why they were participating in the beating of the newest monkey. With all of the original monkeys replaced, none of the remaining monkeys had ever been sprayed with cold water.

Nevertheless, not one of the monkeys tried to climb the stairway for the banana.

Why, you ask? Because in their minds, that is the way it has always been!