

# *Turn Around*

WHEN YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY



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*"It is only by wandering that we discover the right path."*



African Resource Center of West Michigan  
Grand Rapids, Michigan



*Our elders say,  
“It is only by wandering that we discover the right path.”*

*No one enjoys roaming without purpose.  
It can be frustrating to believe we know where we are headed,  
only to find ourselves at a dead end.  
The effort we invested may feel wasted,  
as though our time has slipped away.  
Sometimes we must begin again from the very start.*



*But pause—failure is not the end.*

*It is a vital part of the journey, shaping our growth and maturity.*

*We only fail when we stop trying.*

*Here are some ways to transform mistakes  
into opportunities for growth:*





***1) Accept Responsibility:***

*The best way to grow is to face our mistakes with honesty.*

*Reflect on what went wrong,*

*draw lessons from the experience,*

*and use those insights to make wiser choices in the future.*

*Most people struggle to admit when they are wrong,  
yet without that humility, no new lessons can be learned.*

*Accept responsibility without excuses.*

*Integrity is built this way,  
and it prevents us from repeating the same errors.*



**2) Evaluate the Situation:**

*When things don't go as planned, pause and reflect.*

*Ask yourself what happened  
and what might have been done differently.*

*Be honest, yet gentle with yourself.*

*We all stumble, but stumbling is not the end.*

*We rise, we reflect on why we fell, and we grow by  
understanding what tripped us.*



**3) *Restore Trust and Confidence:***

*Once you uncover the deeper reasons behind a mistake,  
correct what you can.*

*This is why pencils have erasers:  
to remind us that mistakes can be fixed.*





*Repair the damage where possible.*

*Apologize when necessary.*

*Take action that restores trust and confidence.*

*Pride resists apology, but humility heals relationships.*

4) *Forgive and move forward:  
Begin with yourself—release guilt and self-blame,  
and resist the urge to dwell on past mistakes.*

*Focus on what lies ahead  
rather than what has already been done.*



*Then extend forgiveness to others,  
even to those who may have been unkind.*

*Forgiveness frees us from regret, transforms walls into bridges,  
and moves us forward instead of keeping us trapped in the past.*





*5) Welcome feedback:*

*Even when it feels sharp or uncomfortable.*

*Seek out trusted mentors, peers, and colleagues  
who can offer perspectives you may have overlooked.*

*Tell them what happened.*

*Be sincere.*

*Some friends tell us only what we want to hear,  
while others speak hard truths that help us grow.*

*Listen deeply,  
and learn from what others reveal about your actions.*





6) *Finally, set new goals.*

*Use the lessons you have learned to create clear,  
actionable steps for improvement.*

*Like a wanderer who discovers new routes by getting lost,  
learn what not to do when faced with similar challenges.*

*Mistakes provide experience-based wisdom  
that theory alone cannot teach.*

*They cultivate humility and openness to new ideas.*

*Our mistakes make us wiser.  
They strengthen resilience, preparing us for future challenges.  
Every misstep carries a lesson,  
if we are willing to listen and learn.  
Focus on progress and relationships, not perfection.  
Mistakes are part of the journey;  
we thrive only when we learn from them.*





*Learning from mistakes is the art of turning regret into wisdom.*

*The Elders are wise.*

*It is only by wandering that we discover the right path.*

*By reflecting, forgiving, and adjusting, we transform errors  
into stepping stones toward resilience and success.*



















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Portions of this handbook and its accompanying video—including draft text, images, and narration—were generated with the assistance of AI tools.

The final message and all editing decisions reflect the lived experience, values, and creative guidance of the African Resource Center of West Michigan’s media team.

## **Appreciation:**

We gratefully acknowledge the **Grand Rapids Community Foundation** for their generous support of the African Resource Center’s Health and Wellness Project. Their partnership strengthens our mission to promote culturally responsive care and community well-being. Thank you!

