



OFF THE RAILS

OFF THE RAILS – GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GET STARTED

This week we are talking about how we respond when our life gets “off the rails.” Of course, that is a reference to train travel. Train travel is not as common as it once was. To start your meeting, have fun answering these questions:

- Have you ever traveled anywhere by train and, if so, where did you go?
- Which song or album with “train” in the title best describes your life?
 - “Crazy Train” by Ozzy Osbourne
 - “Stop This Train” by John Mayer
 - “Train Wreck” by James Arthur
 - “Long Train Runnin’” by The Doobie Brothers
 - “Train Kept a Rollin’” by Aerosmith (or Tiny Bradshaw, if you're older)
 - “Love Train” by the O’Jays

TAKE IT IN

What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon this week? Why?

TALK IT OVER

Read Colossians 1:23 NLT

- Here Paul is imploring the church in Colossae to “stand firm” and “don’t drift” from the gospel message they accepted not much earlier. We hear terms like “drift” often in nautical or air travel that happens over long distances. Plane pilots and ship captains understand that being off one degree of course can result in being hundreds of miles away from their destination. **Applying this logic to our lives, if our destination at the end of our journey is Heaven, in what ways do people get slightly off course and jeopardize missing the mark of their final destination?**

Read Colossians 2:6-7 NLT

- Whereas the previous Scripture and question revolve around a travel theme, this one has an agricultural theme. This reading encourages us to “let our roots grow down into [Christ]” and if we do, then our “faith will grow strong.” **What does letting your roots grow down into Christ mean to you? How does your answer help you grow strong in your faith?**

OFF THE RAILS

- This series title, “Off the Rails,” may lead some to think we are talking about times when life totally blows up and we become unhinged. While that would certainly qualify as being off the rails, it can also mean that things do not appear to be heading in the right direction or outcomes are not turning out as you planned. This following question can be a deep or hard one to answer, but great fruit can come when speaking from the heart within the safety of our groups, so we encourage you to press in. **In what ways does your life appear to not be heading in the right direction or working out as you hoped or planned? If it is not, how do you reset and get back on track?**
- Some people, and maybe some of us, have come to faith hoping that it would make our lives easier. In some of our situations, it has. However, for others, it hasn't. God doesn't promise that becoming a follower of Jesus will make our lives easier, but He does tell us it will be worth it. **With this in mind, how would you say becoming a follower of Jesus Christ has been worth it?**

LIVE IT OUT

- Living out our faith often involves leading others that don't know the Lord Christ or helping those that do get back on track (or back on the rails). As we head towards the Memorial Day weekend and the unofficial start of summer, consider how you can help someone else get on the right track this summer. Here are some suggestions:
 - **Who do you know that doesn't know Jesus? Invite them to church.**
 - **Who do you know that needs godly friends instead of the ones they may associate with that are leading them astray? Invite them to your life group or check out others. Send them this link: <https://mynorthside.com/groups>.**
 - **Who do you know that struggles with a hurt, habit, or hangup they need to get past? Invite them to check out one of our Care Groups on Monday nights. Send them this link: <https://mynorthside.com/care>.**

Memorize:

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

– John 16:33 NIV