**Series: On the Rails
Scripture and Background Information for January 16-22.**

To prepare for your group discussion each week**,** group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD’S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we continue our series, “*On the Rails.*” The series focuses on living a life that abides in Christ, making Him the center of all our decisions in life. This week we will talk about “Conversion.” The topic of *conversion* does not stand for a *one-time event* but a continuous daily devotion to and on Christ, giving Him the right to lead us to whatever He wants us to do!

**Background for Colossians 2:6-8:**

Although a short text, Col 2:6 has a powerful message when considered in the overarching theme of the epistle. Right before our verses, Paul warns the church that some in the church want to take the focus from Christ and put it on other things. Paul writes the letter to the church in Colossae to show them that Jesus is the risen Lord who controls everything. Thus, He is worthy of following since he alone brings lasting joy, gives life a purpose, and makes believers overcome all storms in life (Col 2:6-7). Starting in the first chapter, Paul shows that Jesus is the number 1. He is no one over the creation (1:13-17), over the church (1:18-23), over Paul’s ministry (1:24-29), and over all wisdom (2:1-5).

With our text, Paul changes the mood in his letter, giving the first indicative (*word of command*) of his letter. Paul changes the mood, telling the church: “Hey, Christ is all-powerful, all-mighty, and all-controlling. Therefore, submit yourself to Him!” For that, he uses different metaphors to describe how life under Christ’s control looks like.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. In your group, talk about the foundation for Paul’s command to walk in Christ.
Remember, before giving the command, he shows the church who Christ is. *He is no. 1!*
2. Which metaphors does Paul use to describe the relationship between Christ and believers? What pictures are the metaphor painting? In connection to our focus on conversion, Paul shows that conversion includes a starting point but also a continuous daily devotion. How do these metaphors speak for a starting point in our conversion and our continuous-daily devotion to Christ?
3. Conversion to Christ is the starting point for walking in faith. At the same time, it is the conviction of having received all fullness in Him. Christ is the subject of all Christian living. He gives eternal life, a fulfilled life, and a purpose for life. That motivated Paul to give everything for Him, and it motivates believers to live for Him. Which things did you give the place in your life that belongs to Christ? Where did you go off the rails?
4. Paul encourages the church to continue to live in Christ since he gives fulfillment to life. At the same time, he warns the church to be aware of empty deceptions. Paul shows that Christ is the no. 1 and all they need. The deceivers say: you need Christ AND… for salvation, to be happy, to have a purpose. What could be empty deceptions or philosophies that you have fallen prey on?

 *Note: To live a life on the rails, we must walk in Him! Only by walking in Him will we live a life of stability that overcomes the storms we face, gives fulfillment, and a life with purpose.*