

Kids Page

All Aboard!

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On the right track

In the mid-1800s, many Americans were heading west in search of a better life. Some sought farmland. Others thought they would strike it rich in the California gold camps.

They travelled on horseback and in covered wagons pulled by mules or oxen. Many walked the whole way. It was a slow, dangerous journey.

Some people felt there had to be a faster, more comfortable way to travel. The answer was the railroad. In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill to build a rail line to the West. It would run from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Sacramento, California. Work started on both sides, with plans to meet somewhere in between. Thousands of men worked on the project. Many were Chinese immigrants. They hammered through mountains, built bridges, and laid mile upon mile of track. In 1869, the two sides came together at Promontory Summit in Utah. A celebration was held as the final railroad spike was pounded in — a special golden spike. On May 10 this year, another celebration marked the 140th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad.

A cross-country trip that once took six months now took only a few days. People could travel easily. Mail and merchandise could be delivered quickly.

Of course, the trains couldn't go just anywhere. They had to stay on the tracks that had been laid. If a train ever left the track, it would be a disaster.

God led the Israelites out of Egypt to offer them a better life. He wanted them to be free to worship Him. That didn't mean they were to do whatever they pleased. They were to follow God's path. He gave them commandments to keep them from derailing their lives.

God instructs us through His Word as well. We can stay on the right track by living for Jesus and obeying His commands.

"Be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left" (Deuteronomy 5:32, NIV).

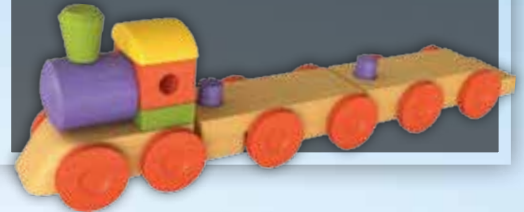
JUST FOR laughs

What do you call a bunch of boxcars loaded with bubblegum?

A chew-chew train.

Why did the railroad engineer eat his lantern?

He wanted a light snack.



Try this!

Train Wreck!

Unscramble these words

nineeg
socaboe
duconctro

antir scrakt
doarilar
weisthl

Did you know?

The world's longest railway tunnel is in Japan. It is more than 33 miles long. The English Channel Tunnel, which connects the United Kingdom and France, is just over 31 miles.

In 2007, a train in France reached a speed of more than 357 miles per hour.

Enter to win!

Be the star of your own show with a set of juggling balls. Enter online by Dec. 8 at pe.ag.org or mail an entry postmarked on or before that date to Juggling Balls Giveaway, Pentecostal Evangel, 1445 N. Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Mo. 65802. Include a daytime phone number. You must have a parent's permission to enter.

