

Did you ever play “choo-choo train” when you were young? I grew up in Los Angeles—a *loooong* way from Edgar, Wisconsin! We played choo-choo with friends in our neighborhood, and then, when we were in school, we played it in our classrooms if we couldn't go outside for recess.

It works best if you have at least 5 or 6 kids. Would you rather be the engine, in front, or the caboose, at the end of the train? Do you think everyone should have a chance to be in front?

The second “car” in the train holds on to the leader, hands on shoulders. What do you think the other “cars” do? (If you have a whole lot of kids and “cars,” could you make a circle, with everyone holding the shoulders of the one in front? If you did that, who would be the leader?)

In today's the story about Jesus, what we call the *gospel*, the *good news*, Jesus tells his best friends—his *disciples*, the ones who follow him—something that really confuses them.

Picture this: Jesus is standing in the middle of a semi-circle (a half circle), and all his disciples are sitting on the ground. He tells them that things are going to get bad for him. He'll have to suffer. (Do you know what happened to him after he ate his Last Supper with his disciples?) All the leaders of the people will turn their backs on him. And then they'll kill him.

Well, his BFF Peter couldn't understand. He got right up in Jesus' face and said, “No way, Jesus! This can't happen to you!” And Jesus scolded him. He said, “You've got this all wrong! God's got my back. Get behind me!”

If Jesus and his disciples were a choo-choo train, who would be the leader? It seems like Peter had stopped following Jesus, maybe even stopped trusting him. So Jesus had to remind him that the job of the disciples was to listen, and trust him, and obey him.

Who are the leaders in your life? Do you do a good job of listening and obeying?