Invited to Go

Jesus’ Invitation


Power Line: Jesus told us to tell others about Him.

Transformer: I can tell others about Jesus.

Preparation

- On the train bulletin board, write the hour’s information: title, Power Line, Transformer.
- Have ticket bags ready for regular attendees, with extras ready to be marked for guests.
- Practice the skit with the conductor, engineer, and stationmaster.
- Print the unit 1 memory passage as large as possible, or prepare to show it as a PowerPoint slide.
- Cut a 10-inch square opening in a large box. Label the box: FIREBOX. Spray-paint half of the Ping-Pong balls black and place them in a metal bucket. Spray the rest of the balls gray and place them in another metal bucket. Each child on each team will need one ball. This game can be used throughout the series.

Supplies

- Prepared ticket bags and extras
- Offering container
- Bibles
- 2 rolls of white masking tape, 2 pairs of scissors
- Ping-Pong balls (1 per child), 2 metal buckets, black spray paint, gray spray paint, large box
- Orange Tic Tac mints (1 mint per child)
- Several handheld mirrors
Welcome

Welcome aboard the Apostolic Express! We’re so excited you came to our train station. Come over here to get your tickets for today. Lead children to the ticket booth and explain how the ticket bags work, showing the chalkboard ticket system (see page 13) so they will know how to earn tickets.

It takes money to ride a train, but you can ride the Apostolic Express for free! However, we always take donations to help us have enough snacks, coal for power, and to keep our train running properly. If you would like to give, please put your offering here. God will always bless you for sharing what you have with Him.

Have children be seated. This is the (City) Train Station, where we await the train. It should be here soon.

• Has anybody ridden a train? What was it like? Await their responses: it’s noisy, the horn blows loudly, it smells like fuel, it’s exciting, it’s fun.

For some people, riding a train is part of their daily life. If given the chance, would you want to ride across the country on a train? That’s what I want you to think about during this Kids Power Hour. You’ve been invited to go way back, back to the Book of Acts, on the Apostolic Express. Jesus invited us to join Him . . . but we’ll talk about that later. Give your neighbor a high five and say, “You are invited!”

Skit: Introductions

C: In case you didn’t know, I’m Conductor (Name) on the Apostolic Express. This is Engineer (Name).

E: Hi, everyone. I’m so happy to be with you today.

C: Who knows the difference between a conductor and an engineer on a train? Pause for responses. A conductor is responsible for the entire train, the crew, and the passengers. I keep the train running like it should and keep it on time. (Name), can you tell us what an engineer does?

E: The engineer is responsible for operating the train. I also have to know the conductor’s job like the back of my hand. If something happens to him, I have to take over his job as well. We both have to stay in communication with the stationmaster at the train station. He is usually in his office somewhere, but he came out to talk to us today. Introduce the stationmaster.

S: The conductor’s and engineer’s jobs are very important, but if they don’t communicate with me on a regular basis, they will run into some major trouble. They know their jobs, but they must follow my instructions. If I tell them to slow their pace upon arrival, they have to listen. If I say stop, they stop. There might be a train in their way that the engineer can’t see, so he has to trust that I am doing my job.

Power Line: Jesus told us to tell others about Him.
You will see me here at the (City) Train Station often. Sometimes I will give you important instructions to follow, just like I tell Conductor (Name) and Engineer (Name). I’m sure you’ll do a good job, just like they do. I better get back to my office. See you later!

**Praise Generator**
Teach the theme song, “This Train.” Encourage the children to clap and express themselves as they sing this lively song.

Teach the unit 1 song “Go.” Who needs to go tell others about Jesus? We do! As we sing this again, point to other children and tell them to go tell others about Jesus.

**Truth Conductor: Power Line**
Select six volunteers. Place three at each end of a table and give each group a roll of masking tape and a pair of scissors. Two children work together to cut strips of tape that the third child will lay on the table. Tell them to lay railroad tracks, starting at their end of the table and meeting in the center. As they work, discuss the Transcontinental Railroad.

The Transcontinental Railroad linked the East Coast with the West Coast. The Central Pacific Railroad began their work in California (show on map) and worked their way eastward at a very slow pace, as much of their work was blasting through mountains. The Union Pacific laid tracks in Omaha, Nebraska (show on map), and spread both east and west. Eventually both of these railroad companies linked up. It was that link that connected the East Coast to the West Coast.

It was hard work. Workers had to have shelter and food in places where there were no towns. They worked in hot, desert heat and wintry mixes of snow and ice, and they faced attacks by wild animals and people who did not want them on their land. The work was mostly done by hand, laying down heavy rails and pounding spikes into the ground—just to connect people from the East Coast to the West Coast. The two teams should be connecting or close to connecting by now.

Many years before this, Jesus came to save us from our sins because He wanted to connect with people. He left us a plan to follow. Ask a volunteer to read Luke 24:47. Jesus wants us to connect with our friends and neighbors and tell them about repentance and forgiveness of sins and the promise of the Holy Ghost. Point to the Power Line on the train bulletin board. Jesus wants us to tell others about Him. I can tell others about Jesus, just as I’m telling you. You can tell others about Jesus. Think of someone you can tell about Jesus.

**Prayer**
- Did you think of someone who needs to know about Jesus? Let children name those they thought of.

Jesus wants you to tell that person about Him, but sometimes you might not know exactly what to say. You can ask God to give you the courage and the right words to tell others about Him. Lead in prayer.
Energy Outlet

Play Toss the Coal in the Hole. The Apostolic Express needs some fresh fuel. Let’s see if we can toss enough coal into the firebox to keep going. Form two teams and give each team a bucket of coal (gray and black Ping-Pong balls). Place the firebox six feet away. At your signal, the first child of each team grabs a coal from the bucket and tosses it into the firebox. If the coal lands on the floor, it stays there. The child runs to the back of the line and the next player plays. After all the children have participated, count to see how many coals from each team made it into the firebox.

That was fun. A real train requires fresh fuel to keep running.

• How can we get fresh fuel in our spirits to keep running for Jesus? Encourage responses.

Power of the Word

Power Line: Jesus told us to tell others about Him.

Bible Memorization

On the board write: “Acts 1:8.” Ask children to find it in their Bibles. Encourage older children to help younger children. Read the verse together.

• What is the fifth word in this verse? Power
• Name something that has a lot of power. Possible answers: motorcycle, airplane, supercharged engine, train, light switch, power tool.

It takes power to run the lights in here. I need power to run my car. The Apostolic Express needs power to run.

Show the box of Tic Tacs and ask children to identify it.

• What does this tiny piece of candy do? Possible answers: it freshens breath, it has a lot of flavor, it has the power to change the color of your tongue orange.

Who knew that this tiny little piece of candy had so much power to do all these things?

Have children read the verse again. Jesus promised to give us power when we receive the Holy Ghost. If you have candy and you are around others who don’t, they will want you to share with them. Anytime you have something good, you should share it with others. Jesus promised to give us power to tell others about Him.

• What is that power called? The Holy Ghost

Give a Tic Tac to each child, who then repeats Acts 1:8. Distribute the hand mirrors so children can see if their tongues turned orange. After checking for an orange tongue, the child repeats the verse again while still looking in the mirror before passing the mirror to the next child.

Take time to help children learn how to use their Bibles. Don’t always find the passage for them; show them how to use the table of contents. Encourage children who are familiar with their Bibles to assist those who need help.
**Spirit Generator**
Focus on familiar choruses (not full songs) that children are used to worshiping to in big church.

- “Same Power” by Jeremy Camp (chorus)
- “Word of God Speak” by Mercy Me
- “I Lift My Hands” by Chris Tomlin

**Illustrated Sermon**

**Jesus’ Invitation** (Luke 24:46–49; Acts 1:1–8)

Listen to this story about a young boy who lived near a train station.

My house was located next to a train station, and my bedroom overlooked the platform. I loved to watch people wait on the platform for the trains. Sometimes they were going on a trip and were dressed in their Sunday best, clutching a suitcase, and other times they were waiting for someone to arrive. I watched eagerly as people waited expectantly. They looked happy, and that kept me watching.

One day as I watched the people, my grandma came in and asked if I would like to go on a train ride. Boy, would I! She handed me a ticket and said, “Now hurry up and get your shoes on. The train is coming.”

With childhood wonder I stood on the platform waiting to get on the train. When the conductor hollered, “All aboard!” I smiled, for today I was going on board!

My seat was right up against the window so I could watch the train pull out of the station. As I looked out the window, I saw my friend, Levi riding his bike. I remember feeling sad that he wasn’t with me. I decided to take it all in so I could share with Levi when I returned.

The whistle sounded long and loud to let everyone know we were leaving. The train rattled and bounced over the rails as we pulled out. Smoke poured out of the smokestack and almost blocked my view of the train station. The smell of the burning coal was not nice, but it was all part of the train trip.

Even though it was just a short train ride to the next town and back again, it was something I never forgot. I felt like the happiest boy in the world. It made me love trains even more, and might very well be what inspired me to become a conductor for the railroad.

The boy knew he wanted to share everything with his friend, so he paid close attention to all the details and the fun. When he got back home, I’m sure the first thing he did was run tell his friend all about it.

The Book of Luke tells about some people who got to know Jesus. They met Him, talked to Him, and listened to Him teach and preach. Many of these people traveled with Him from town to town. They saw Him heal blind Bartimaeus, and he was able to see. They saw the little girl come back to life, and you know that made her parents happy!

- Name some things that people who knew Jesus saw Him do.

**Transformer:** I can tell others about Jesus.
These same people also saw Jesus die on a cross. It was a sad day, even though Jesus had told them He was going to die. He came to save them from their sins, and He warned them that things were going to get rough. And did they get rough! Jesus was arrested for healing people and telling the truth about God. That doesn’t seem fair, does it? Then He died, His friends buried Him in a grave, and everyone was sad.

Ah, but it didn’t end there! Jesus came back to life, because He is God and He has all power! When He came back to life, He met with His disciples and friends who followed Him. He reminded them of what He had taught them about loving God and loving each other. He wanted them to understand that all the different people He had spoken to and all the things they had seen Him do were for a purpose—so that they, His disciples and friends, could do the same things.

Ask a volunteer to read Luke 24:45. Jesus wanted His disciples and friends to understand that everything they had been taught about God while they were growing up had just happened in Jesus. The Scriptures said He had to die and come back to life—and He did. Then Jesus gave them a special invitation. Read verses 46-48. Jesus let them know He wanted them to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to others. They had witnessed everything about His ministry, and now He wanted them to tell others what they had seen.

Have children read Acts 1:8 together. A witness is someone who sees something happen with his own eyes. I saw (name an instance where you saw a child do something nice during KPH). I was a witness.

• What is something good you have witnessed?

Jesus promised to give the Holy Ghost that would give them power to be witnesses. His disciples and His friends would be brave and courageous and bold so they could tell others everything they had witnessed about Jesus.

**Invitation and Prayer**

Play worship music in the background as you give the invitation to pray.

That invitation is open to us today. It wasn’t just for His disciples and close friends. When Jesus promised to send the Holy Ghost to them, He was promising it to everyone.

Read Luke 24:47. Jesus doesn’t want us to just talk about the miracles He did for others, or tell the stories He told. The miracles we see today and the things we hear preached today are important too, and we need to tell others about them. Jesus wants us to tell people about repenting and forgiveness of sins. Being healed of a sickness is wonderful, but not as wonderful as having Jesus forgive you of your sins. Loving your neighbors and being kind to others is great, but it’s not as great as telling Jesus you are sorry and feeling Him love you as He takes your sins away.

Jesus continued His invitation with special instructions. He told His disciples and friends to preach about repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name among all nations. He didn’t want them to just stay at home and only tell their families or neighbors. He wanted them to go out and tell everyone everywhere.

**Power Line:** Jesus told us to tell others about Him.
• Think of a country you could go to and be a witness about Jesus. When you think of a place you could go, come stand by me. After several are standing by you, continue before letting them share their place.

The best part is, when Jesus keeps His promise and gives you the Holy Ghost, you have this wonderful, fantastic power to tell others about all the things you have witnessed and experienced. Everyone say, “I can tell others about Jesus.”

• Let volunteers name the places where they could go witness, asking each one to name one thing to tell the people. Let volunteers return to their seats.

We can’t be witnesses if we don’t have anything to tell. That is why it is important to listen to Jesus’ invitation to be a part of His group, to repent and have our sins forgiven. Then He will give the Holy Ghost and the power to be witnesses for Him, just as He promised.

Close your eyes. Think about something Jesus has done for you or something you know He did for someone else. Are you ready to share that with others? Do you have His power in you to be bold and witness to others? Can you honestly say, I can tell others about Jesus?

The Apostolic Express is a pretend train, but we use it to remind others that Jesus wants everyone to be on board with Him. He wants to hear you repent of your sins. He wants to forgive you, and He wants to give you the Holy Ghost—that’s His Spirit living inside you—so you can have power to be witnesses everywhere you go. He wants you to tell others about Him.

While your eyes are closed, talk to Jesus about things in your life that you know are wrong. If you are sorry for doing wrong, ask Jesus to forgive you. Let Him take away your sins and make you feel good inside. He wants to fill you with His Spirit, and He can do that today if you want Him to.

"Lord, I Give You My Heart" by Hillsong
"Breathe on Me" by Hillsong
"Draw Me Close to You" by Michael W. Smith

Workers should pray with children while worshipers sing softly in the background. Pray for children to respond by repenting and seeking to receive the Holy Ghost. Help them experience a full altar service, in children’s church.

Review
If you have extended time waiting on parents, play Hangman using key words from Acts 1:8 and from the Illustrated Sermon.

Play Toss the Coal in the Fire again.

Power at Home Papers
Distribute the Hour 1 papers. Encourage children to witness from the paper to their families, sharing what they learned today.

Transformer: I can tell others about Jesus.