

Take Action: Play and Replay

I Kings 17:1-7: Elijah Is Fed by Ravens

Students will take a closer look at the challenge of interpreting motives from actions. Students will act out scenarios involving zeal (a deep love of something good) which can be mistaken for anger (e.g. child runs out in front of a car and a parent yells at them). Challenge students to replay situations to reflect alternative ways to act in these situations.

Supplies Needed for Each Student

- copy of “Play and Replay” (see attached sheet)

Discussion

Encourage discussion as the activity progresses. Wrap up the discussion by calling to mind that only the Lord knows a person’s inner motives and loves. We are unable to judge what other people are thinking or intending—even when there is a strong appearance of good or bad motives.



Play and Replay!

I Kings 17:1-7: Elijah is Fed by Ravens

The ravens who bring food to Elijah picture false ideas. They appear to be doing something good for him—sustaining him while he is in the wilderness. But eventually Elijah leaves the wilderness and these false ideas that fed him are replaced. Today’s activity takes a closer look at the relationship between motives and actions, and how we may be misled into assuming someone’s motives from the appearance of their actions.

Identify Your Motives

It is not always easy to see why we choose to behave in certain ways. In any given situation, we may believe that we are acting from kindness, courtesy and generosity. But if we look at our actions through the Lord’s eyes, we may discover that instead of having kindness in our hearts, we are looking for a favor; instead of courtesy, we are hoping to gain a good reputation; and instead of generosity, we are waiting for a pay-back.

Zeal Masquerading as Anger

When we see others acting angrily, selfishly, or greedily, we may also not be getting the whole picture. It may be difficult for us to know the motives of others, and even harder for us to know our own motives. The Heavenly Doctrines suggest the following:

When the loves of good people are attacked, they respond with zeal rather than anger. Inwardly, this is charity, goodness, and mercy. (see *Apocalypse Explained* 693:2)

Play!

- Brainstorm a list of situations in which a person’s actions might look like one thing—for example anger, but are actually motivated out of concern for another’s well-being. An example might be the way a mother responds when a little child is lost and then found, or the way a coach talks to his team at half-time.
- Make up a skit to illustrate a scenario in which a person’s good motives lead them to act in a way that may be mistaken for anger or selfishness, then perform it.
- After the dramatization discuss alternative ways a person could act in the same situation. Does behavior make a difference in how we respond to other people? How?

Replay!

- Take turns dramatizing situations in which a person is motivated by selfish concerns. An example might be a friend borrowing clothing without asking permission or damaging something you own and then hiding it from you, hoping that it won’t be discovered.
- After dramatizing a scenario illustrating a selfish response, call out “Replay!” and reenact the same situation with a more appropriate response.