



FHE

with

Living Scriptures
STREAMING

Act Well Thy Part

Objectives:

- Talk about how our actions can bring us closer to the Savior.
- Emphasize that the world is watching us and we would do well to remember the motto: “What e’er thou art, act well thy part.

Reinforces Principles of:

- Good Example
- Good Actions

Each lesson contains 5 activities:

(Choose the activities that fit your family’s schedule.
Additional resources are provided as extra time may be available.)

Reverence Time: Song, prayer, scripture and video clip

Lesson Time: Lesson summary and points to ponder

Story Time: Story

Activity Time: Object lesson or activity

Treat Time: Prayer, theme related recipe & music video



Reverence Time

Approximate Time:

Sing Together: Children's Songbook #170, "The Things I Do."
If you wish to have an online music file to accompany you visit:
<https://www.lds.org/music/library/childrens-songbook/the-things-i-do>

Prayer:

Scripture Time: Proverbs 20:11

11. Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

John 15:16

16. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Video Clip: Watch a clip from *David O. McKay* from the Modern Prophets series on Living Scriptures Streaming at <https://www.livingscriptures.com/fhe-lesson-act-well-thy-part/>.



Lesson Time

Approximate Time: 10-15 minutes

Lesson Summary:

“When President David O. McKay was a young missionary in Scotland, he was homesick, discouraged, and low in spirit. As he walked down the street with his companion, he noticed an inscription chiseled in a stone lintel of an unfinished building which read, ‘What E’er Thou Art, Act Well Thy Part.’ From that moment, he began to act the part of a good missionary and became a great one. This was a learning experience that helped him in numerous important callings he received later in life.” (*Cherished Experiences from the Writings of President David O. McKay*, comp. Clare Middlemiss Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1955, p. 174.)

How can we apply the inscription, “What E’er Thou Art, Act Well Thy Part” into our lives? (Discuss ideas.)

“If we want to be a person of integrity, we act as if we have integrity and we will be a person of integrity. If we want to be a person of charity and love, we act as if we have that characteristic and we will be that person. The Savior alluded to this principle when he asked, ‘What manner of men ought ye to be?’ Then he answered his own question, ‘Even as I am.’ (3 Ne. 27:27.) We should strive to become like him by acting as he would act.” Royden G. Derrick, *Ensign*, May 1983
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What are some of the things David O. McKay did throughout his life to act well his part in order to be more like the Savior? (Discuss ideas.)

“David O. McKay acted well his part as the hard working oldest son of humble parents. As a diligent student and faithful missionary and clearly in manhood he continued to act his part as a concerned teacher and principle, as a model husband and father and as an inspirational church leader and orator, but most important of all, David O. McKay throughout his mortal life acted well his part as a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ.” *Excerpt from “The Modern Prophets, David O. McKay.”*

How do our actions affect those with whom we associate? (Discuss ideas.)

“Those with whom we associate are silently assessing us, our values and character traits. ... We are a new generation of witnesses to bear testimony that God lives and Jesus is the Christ. ... To be judged fairly, we must avoid the very appearance of evil and as Church members, we all benefit when one of us is honorable and righteous. We would do well to remember the words quoted by President McKay: ‘What e’er thou art, act well thy part.’” J. Richard Clarke, *Ensign*, May 1985
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**Points to
Ponder:**

What are some of the things we can do to act well our part? (Discuss ideas.)

“Above all else we can live the gospel. Surely there is no more powerful missionary message we can send to this world than the example of a loving and happy Latter-day Saint life. The manner and bearing, the smile and kindness of a faithful member of the Church brings a warmth and an outreach which no missionary tract or videotape can convey. ... Our spirit of testimony and happiness in that regard will come through to others if we let it.” *Jeffrey R. Holland, Liahona, Jul 2001 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

Who can we turn to for help in doing our part well? (Discuss ideas.)

“President McKay was prepared for this work and responsibility from his earliest childhood in Huntsville, where he was taught by the example of his parents that the Lord and His work were to come first in a person’s life.” *Leon R. Hartshorn, Tambuli, Oct 1993 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

“As we pray, the Lord will guide and prepare us to do our part. ... What does the Lord expect us to do? He expects us to play our part in the final scenes prior to His coming. He expects us to prove ourselves worthy to return and live with Him. He expects us to become like Him.”
Elaine S. Dalton, Ensign, May 2005 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

Quote:

“You are a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. More than that, you are here as a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ.”
David O. McKay

“May we learn what we should learn, do what we should do, and be what we should be.”
Thomas S. Monson



Story Time

(Approximate Time: 3 minutes)

Mother curled up on the couch after putting the movie into the DVD player.

Bobby peeked into the family room. “What ya watching, Mom,” he asked.

Mother paused the movie, “It’s our new movie about the prophet, David O. McKay,” she answered.

Bobby counted on his fingers as he sang the song, “Latter-day Prophets,” to himself. “David O. McKay was the ninth president of the Church,” he proudly stated.

“And,” Mother added, “he was the Prophet when I was growing up.”

“Wow, you’re old,” Bobby teased. “Can I watch it with you?”

Mother patted the seat next to her on the couch. “I’ve got a seat saved for you right here,” she beckoned. “If you don’t mind sitting next to *an old lady*,” Mother said with an exaggerated shaky voice.

Bobby giggled and sat next to Mother on the couch. “I love you, Mom,” he whispered.

“I love you, too,” Mother cooed. “Did you know that my grandfather was from Scotland? Just like David O. McKay’s.”

“Really? Did he wear one of those *skirts*?” Bobby queried.

“The skirt is called a kilt and I really don’t know if Grandpa ever wore one. But, I do know he loved the sound of the bagpipes, just like President McKay did,” Mother answered. “Did I ever tell you about the time Grandpa took us to see the Scottish play ‘Brigadoon’ at the Valley Music Hall. After the play ended they announced that President McKay was in the audience and when he stood up and I saw him in person I had an overwhelming feeling right her in my heart,” Mother said patting her chest, “and I knew without a doubt that he was a prophet of God. Then,” Mother continued, “they played a special song on the bagpipes for him. President McKay stood through the entire song and when they were done he thanked them and told us that ever since he was a small boy the sound of the bagpipes had stirred his emotions and had done so again that day.”

Bobby snuggled next to Mother and whispered, “I hope I get to see the Prophet in person, someday.”

Mother hit the play button on the DVD player.

When he heard the story about how David O. McKay said that *he* wasn't going to go on a mission when he received his call, Bobby felt his heart tweak.

"Where do you think the Lord will call you to serve?" Mother whispered to Bobby.

Although Bobby was only a boy, he had thought often about the prospect of going on a mission and *he* didn't want to go either. "*I just can't leave my family for two whole years,*" he would tell himself, but he would feel guilty for not wanting to serve.

"I've never thought about *where*," Bobby answered truthfully.

Maybe you'll be called to the Scotland where my grandfather was from," Mother said, "Just like David O. McKay was called to the home of his ancestors."

Bobby shrugged his shoulders. "Maybe."

The words, "*Well, David, this is your choice...you pray about it,*" echoed through Bobby's head, "*Pray about it, pray about it.*" Bobby had never thought about praying about it.

Bobby closed his eyes, "*Heavenly Father, please help me to not be afraid to leave my family and serve a mission when I'm old enough,*" he silently prayed.

Bobby opened his eyes and read the inscription on the T.V. screen, "What e'er thou art act well thy part."

The impact of these words on Bobby was extraordinary, just like it had been on Elder McKay.

"*I'll do it. I'll go on a mission just like President McKay did.*"

When the movie was over Bobby promised the Lord that he wouldn't wait for his mission call to "Act well his part." He would start today!

After dinner, Bobby cleared the table without being asked and then offered to read a bedtime story to his little sister. At the grocery store he helped a stranger by putting away her empty cart. At school he befriended the kid nobody liked. At church he listened reverently and he always looked for opportunities to share the gospel with others.

Now, when doubts about going on a mission try to push their way into Bobby's mind he pushes them away by saying these words; "*I am a child of God and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and I will always do my best to 'Act Well My Part.'*"

by Margie Nauta Lee © 2010 Living Scriptures, Inc.



Activity Time

What you need: A copy of the “What E’er Thou Art” activity (artwork included with this lesson) scissors and glue. Optional: Laminating sheets for added durability.

Preparation

1. **Print** out the artwork.
2. **Cut** out artwork.
3. **Glue** front of artwork to back of artwork. **Optional:** Cover with laminating sheets.
4. **Cut** along dotted lines.

Activity: (Younger children will need help from an older sibling or parent.)

1. Lay puzzle motto side up on a table.
2. Read motto: “What E’er Thou Art Act Well Thy Part.”
3. Ask: What does “What E’er Thou Art” mean? (Discuss ideas. Emphasize that it means ‘What ever you are.’)
4. Ask: What are some of the different roles we each have? (Discuss ideas. See artwork.)
5. Ask: What does “Act Well Thy Part” mean? (Discuss ideas. Example: Thou Art A Stranger; Offer to put away a stranger’s grocery cart.)



6. Take turns drawing a puzzle piece, reading the role on the back, giving an example of something you can do to “Act Well Thy Part” in that role.

7. After all pieces are drawn put puzzle together with role side up.



WHAT·E'ER·THOU·ART·
ACT·WELL·THY·PART·



JOHN·ALLAN·ARCHITECT·1891

• THOU • ART • A • MEMBER • OF •
THE • CHURCH • OF • JESUS • CHRIST •
OF • LATTER • DAY • SAINTS •

THOU • ART •
• A •
• MEMBER •
• MISSIONARY •

THOU • ART •
• A •
• STUDENT •

THOU • ART •
• A •
• STRANGER •

THOU • ART •
• A •
• FRIEND •

THOU • ART •
• A •
• NEIGHBOR •

THOU • ART •
• A •
• WORKER •

THOU • ART •
• A • SON • OR •
• DAUGHTER •

THOU • ART •
• A •
• GRANDCHILD •

THOU • ART •
• A • BROTHER •
• OR • SISTER •

THOU • ART • A • CHILD • OF • GOD •



Treat Time

Approximate Time: 30 minute

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Bake Time: 15 minutes

“Act Well Thy Part” Cookie Bar

Cookie Bar Recipe

1/2 cup butter, softened
 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
 2 eggs
 1 tablespoon milk
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
 3/4 cup quick-cooking oats
 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 3/4 cup English toffee bits



Frosting Recipe

1/2 c. butter, softened
 1 T. milk
 2 1/2 c. powdered sugar
 1 tsp. vanilla
 1 drop red food coloring
 2 drops yellow food coloring

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, milk and vanilla. Combine flour, oats, baking powder and salt. Gradually add dry ingredients to creamed mixture. Fold in the toffee bits. Spread into a greased 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes. Cool completely. Spread frosting over bars. Follow guide for cutting.

Treat Time: Use tooth picks/craft stick and pattern as guide (or make up your own pattern) to “chisel” designs in your individual pieces of Cookie Stone. Before eating put pieces back together and recite the motto together. (A parent or older sibling will need to take the top and bottom pieces to “chisel.” Replace “Lee” with your family’s last name and the date with the correct year.)

Closing Prayer and blessing on the food.

