

ALMSGIVING,



Julie and her best friend, Sam, are walking home from school.

Julie is acting a little nervous. “You know that kid named Chris at school?” she says to Sam. “I saw him carrying boxes into the food bank yesterday.”

Sam says, “Yeah? Well, his brother Patrick told me that he gives part of his allowance to that food bank every week, too. What a loser.”

After what Sam says, Julie becomes even more nervous. “Oh, I don’t know. I think it’s kind of nice of him to do that.”

Sam turns and stares at Julie—and Julie looks down at her feet. She says, “I wanted to ask you if you’d like to volunteer at the food bank with me one afternoon after school during Lent.”

Sam looks surprised. “Are you serious?” he asks.

Julie looks right into Sam’s eyes. “Last week Father Anthony told us that Lent is a time for us to concentrate on the things that make us more like Jesus. He said that praying, giving to the poor, and going without things we like so we can help others make us more like Jesus.”

Julie looks back down at her feet. “You might think I’m a loser, too, but I just thought I’d ask.” She looks up at Sam again and says, “I thought it would be nice for us to go together.”

Read Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 and then close your Bible and answer the following questions. If you need help, open your Bible and check the verse that appears at the end of the question.



1. What is *recompense*? (v. 1)

CRITICISM PRAISE REWARD

2. What does Jesus tell people to do when they give alms? (v. 2)

DO NOT BLOW A TRUMPET BLOW A TRUMPET

3. What does Jesus call someone who gives alms to win the praise of others? (v. 2)

RIGHTEOUS HYPOCRITIES

4. What does Jesus say we should do when we give alms? (v. 3)

KEEP IT A SECRET

NOT LET OUR LEFT HAND KNOW WHAT OUR
RIGHT HAND IS DOING

BOTH OF THESE

PRAYING, AND FASTING



Sam cannot believe what he is hearing. “Can’t we just give up candy like we do every year?” he asks. Julie smiles and says, “Oh, I am doing that, too, and I’m giving the money I usually spend on candy to the food bank.”

“I don’t know. This is hard,” Sam says. “Yes,” says Julie, “but I think we should try.”

Sam thinks for a moment and then says, “All right. We’ll do it together—and we can try to be more like Jesus. Right?” “Right!” Julie responds with a smile.

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5. Why do the hypocrites pray loudly in public places? (v. 5)

THEY THINK GOD CAN HEAR THEM BETTER
THEY WANT OTHERS TO THINK THEY ARE HOLY

6. What is *fasting*? (v. 16)

THE OPPOSITE OF SLOWING
GOING WITHOUT SOMETHING WE LIKE,
USUALLY FOOD

7. What does Jesus say we should do when we fast? (v. 17)

LOOK LIKE WE ARE SUFFERING
TAKE CARE TO LOOK LIKE WE ARE NOT
FASTING

