A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18
Teaching About Almsgiving And Fasting

Jesus said to his disciples: “Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.
“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”
1. What did Jesus warn about when doing righteous deeds?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Who will see our good deeds and almsgiving in secret?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. What did Jesus warn about when praying?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Who will see when we pray in secret?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

5. What did Jesus warn about when fasting?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

6. Who will know when we fast?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
Directions: Read about Lent. Then use the Lent Code to solve the puzzle and answer the questions.

Lent is the 40 days before Easter. Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. A cross made of ashes is put on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. The ashes remind us of when God made Adam. They also remind us of God’s mercy and love for us.

Lent is a season for us to grow closer to God. Jesus taught us a few ways to do this. He taught us to help others, to pray, and to fast.

Help others
Jesus tells us to help others. Some examples of people who need our help are the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the lonely. We can help by giving food or money. We can spend time with someone or do good things for them.
Pray
We talk to God when we pray. God talks to us too. We are friends with God when we pray.

Fast
When we fast, we give something up and give it back to God. Some people give up candy or chocolate, or even watching TV for Lent as a gift to God. What can you give up for God?
What three things can we do during Lent to grow closer to God?

1. ______ ______ ______ ______
   24  10  5  22

2. ______ ______ ______ ______ ______ ______ ______ ______
   4  1  9  24  12  14  4  1  10  7

3. ______ ______ ______ ______
   8  5  7  14