

# No Lunch Money!

A Matthew 25 Household Devotion



## My Story

I was having a great time at youth convention until lunchtime. Breakfast was provided (dinner too) but we were on our own for lunch. I looked at the prices on the menu and knew I hadn't brought enough money to get me through the week. I guess I didn't know that lunch on the Ocean City boardwalk would cost twice as much as it did at home. I had enough to buy lunch for 3 days. What would I eat the other three days? I felt so stupid and small that I didn't tell my roommate, or the chaperones, and for sure I didn't call my parents. I was 15 and I wanted to solve my own problems. I figured if I walked into town, far enough from the board walk, I could find a meal I could afford. And I did, at a neighborhood diner that fit my budget. I could afford one BLT sandwich or one large slice of pizza for 6 days. But when I finished my lunch I was still hungry. So I ate the package of crackers that was meant for someone's soup. And I ate the garnish, a piece of lettuce and a slice of orange. And I thought about eating the fries that someone left on the next table. I was a hungry kid, far from home, and no one helped me get lunch. Why?

## Your Story

*If you live alone, call a friend or relative and share stories. If you live with family or friends, share stories with them.*

Option 1: True story. You might remember a time when you didn't have lunch money. Why didn't you have money? Who tried to help you? How did you help yourself? What did you have for lunch? Tell your story.

Option 2: Imaginary story. You might not remember a time when you didn't have lunch money. Imagine that you have \$1.00 for lunch and everyone in your house has \$1.00 for lunch. No one has money for gas. Where will you get lunch? How will you get there? Will anyone help you? Tell your imaginary story.

## Our Stories

Many people have stories like our stories. Some have happy endings and some don't. Some people have been waiting a long time for a happy ending. Telling and listening to stories helps us be more aware of people who are having difficulty finding food. It also helps us be more aware of how we can help people find the food they need.

Seeing the Help	Seeing the Helpers	Seeing Yourself
List as many groups as you can that provide food for hungry people	Beside each group write names of people you know who volunteer or donate to that group. If our church supports that group add HTLC	Write your name beside any group you want to support.

**Win a Prize!** Send your story or your list to the church office. The Generosity Project team will send you a pizza lunch, OR donate the value of the pizza to I-HELP/HAT.

## Jesus' Story

Our stories are Jesus' story. He said, "Whatever you gave to the least of my brothers and sisters you gave to me." (Matthew 25:40) End your time together with a prayer, giving thanks that your story is part of a big story, Jesus' story.