

MY GOD STORY

I was an 8th grade math teacher. This year was the first year that the 8th grade students had to pass math TAKS in order to go on to high school. They get three tries to pass it. I started praying in January for their first try on the test in early April. The closer April came, the more nervous I got, and the more desperate the prayers. You saw me in worship. Every time we were called to prayer I was on my knees at the rail. I tried to be honest with God. I was getting ready to retire, and I wanted it to be my best year ever. I told him I knew that I was praying for me, too, but that I also wanted my students to pass. I usually get 84-85% of my students to pass and about half of my advisory (that is made up of only those students who failed the TAKS test last year). I thought about asking God for 90% then maybe 95%. I knew that this would be pushing my luck. But, then it hit me. I realized that I was putting limits on my God. So, I asked him for 100% passing.

As the first test approached, I announced to my students how I had been praying for them and what I asked of God – that I was not going to put any limits on Him – and that I had asked for 100% passing. I prayed on my knees (for this is when I feel closest to God) for each student by name on the night before the test. During the test, I walked slowly around the room stopping between pairs of students and prayed again for each of them.

After the test the students asked what I was doing standing next to them. I told them that I was praying for each of them. Of course some of the students said, “You sure stayed by my desk a long time”. I just told them they really needed the prayers.

When we got the test results back – my students had 96% passing! There were only 5 of my students who did not pass! I also was quick to say “and God isn’t done. He gets 2 more tries!” Needless to say, I was in tears when I told my classes how well they had done. After I made this announcement to my first period class and the bell rang, one of my students came up to me and said, “Thank you Miss, I did not believe in God until your class.” I was floored. I was not in any way expecting this from a student. Of course I cried again and told him that must have been God’s reason for me teaching him this year.

I am at 98% passing as I write this. I have 2 students who will take the test in July. I am continuing to pray for them, and I am thinking of going to their test site and pray for them while they take the test (if I am allowed). God’s not finished yet!

I have never been this bold about my God to my students. I am not quite sure what made me so this year. Maybe it was because it was my last year. I am just glad I was bold.

Vickie