

How are all of these related?

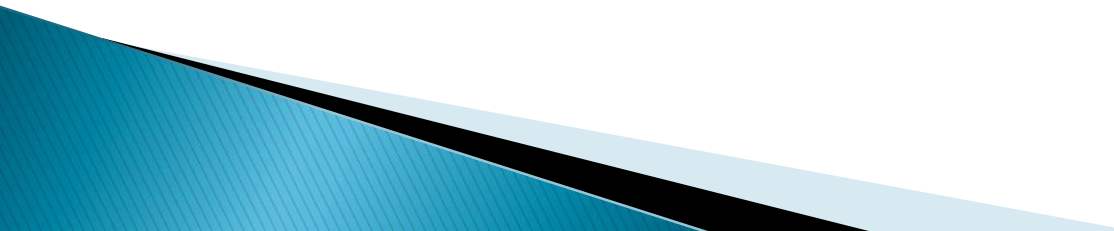
- ▶ SAT
- ▶ ACT
- ▶ PSSA
- ▶ Keystone
- ▶ Civil Service
- ▶ Driving
- ▶ BAR
- ▶ Final



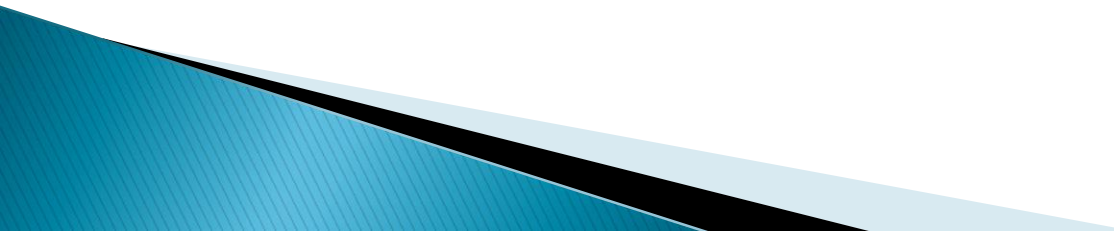


How do/did you feel about taking exams in school? >>

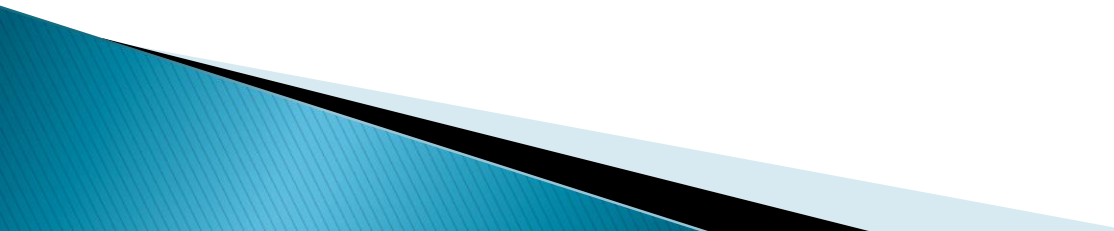
What are the reasons tests?

- ▶ Demonstrates your level of understanding.
 - ▶ Allows others to see how you would react in a given situation.
 - ▶ You and/or others are able to determine your strengths and weaknesses.
 - ▶ Provides opportunities for growth.
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Tests of Faith

- ▶ God allows our faith to be challenged so that growth can occur.
 - ▶ The challenges to our faith allow us to see what level of maturity we are at with our faith.
 - ▶ The tests of our faith allows us to realize our dependence upon God and the opportunity to glorify Him.
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Types of Tests of Faith

- ▶ Embarrassment
 - ▶ Suffering
 - ▶ Pain
 - ▶ Final Exam
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Embarrassment

Noah's Ark Genesis 6–9

- ▶ ⁵ The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. ⁶ The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ⁷ So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. Genesis 6:5–8

Noah's Ark

¹³ By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth..

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives." Genesis 8: 13, 15-16

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." Genesis 9:8-11

Facts About the Ark

- ▶ Noah was over 500 years old when he started the construction.
- ▶ Took around 100 years to complete.
- ▶ 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high



Embarrassment

- ▶ With evil all around him, Noah did what God asked him to do.
- ▶ Can you imagine what the neighbors said?
- ▶ Can you imagine life on the ark?
- ▶ God rewarded Noah's faith with the gift of life for him and his family.
- ▶ As Christians, are we embarrassed about our faith and the things we are supposed to do as followers of God?
- ▶ Would we be willing to "build an ark" for God?



God's Thoughts on Embarrassment

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matt 5: 8–11

³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. Matt 10: 32–33

Suffering

²⁰ Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. ²¹ She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.” ²² Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed at that moment. Matt 9: 20-22



Suffering

She was desperate.
Doctors could not heal her.
This woman turned to Jesus after years of suffering.
She was afraid to “bother” Jesus.
Her faith healed her.

At what point of suffering do we turn to God?
Do we try earthly means first to relieve our suffering?
Do we think God does not have time for our suffering because he has more important needs to take care of or that we are not worth his time?



Mental, Physical or Spiritual Pain

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” Matt 26: 36–39



Pain

- ▶ Jesus was experiencing pain in all of its forms.
- ▶ He knew the physical pain that awaited Him.
- ▶ Jesus knew the mental anguish of being rejected by the people He came to save and abandoned by His friends.
- ▶ Jesus trusted in His Father's will and followed through with God's plan of salvation.
- ▶ Jesus knew his pain would bring glory to His Father.
- ▶ Do we allow pain to drive us away from God or use it to grow as a Christian and to glorify God?



Final Exam

- ▶ At the end of time, we are going to be judged.
- ▶ We are going to be held accountable for the choices we made.
- ▶ God is going to look at our lives and determine our eternal destiny.
- ▶ Possible final exam questions:
 - ▶ Do we believe that Jesus is our savior?
 - ▶ Did we help others to come to know Jesus?
 - ▶ How important was God in our lives?
 - ▶ What type of example did our lives present?



Abraham and Isaac

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.” Genesis 22:1–2

¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

¹² “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

Genesis 22: 10–12

Passed with Flying Colors

