

WHEN IT RAINS...

EPHESIANS 3:1-6

We can overcome discouragement by...

- Seeing our lives as under the SOVEREIGNTY of God.
- Living for Jesus by SERVING others.
- Seeing our lives as PART of the larger PLAN of God.
- Focusing on the MISSION of God to reconcile all peoples through the gospel of Jesus.

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Look at Paul's self-description in 3:1. How does this show His confidence in God's sovereignty?
2. Read the following passages, and discuss what each tells us about God's sovereignty. Psalm 115:3, Isaiah 46:9-10, Deuteronomy 32:39, Ephesians 1:11, Romans 8:28.
3. When in your life has it been difficult to understand God's sovereignty? When have you seen His sovereign hand directing your life?
4. How can serving others free us from discouragement? How have you seen this in your own life? Who can you serve this week? (see Phil 2:3-4; Mark 10:45)
5. How does Paul see himself in Ephesians 3:2-5? What difference does it make to see ourselves as part of the plan God is accomplishing? How can we begin to change our worldview to be more biblical (see Ephesians 4:22-24, Rom 12:2)?
6. How was Paul's statement in Ephesians 3:6 revolutionary at the time? How is it revolutionary and powerful in our time?
7. Why do you think discouragement is so prevalent during the holiday season? Is there any area of life right now where you're feeling discouraged?

December 1, 2019

Nathanael King



"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle