



What to Do When God Doesn't Pick You

Joyce Meyer

Focus There are times in life when God gives us rainbows, like Noah. And then there are times God gives us circumcision, like Abraham. God knows exactly what we need and when we need it. Our job is to trust God and maintain a good attitude regardless of what kind of circumstance we find ourselves in.

Fun What is something you admire about your mom or a mother figure in your life?

Review Key Scriptures: Genesis 9:11–17, 17:9–14; John 21:14–23

1. Rainbows and Circumcisions

When God made a covenant with Noah, He gave him a rainbow as the sign. However, when God made a covenant with Abraham, He gave circumcision as the sign of the covenant. Naturally, we all prefer the rainbow, but sometimes God gives us a circumcision instead. When others are being blessed while we experience hardships, it is a test for us. Circumcision symbolizes cutting away the flesh. It is hard to celebrate someone else's rainbow when God is giving us a circumcision.

2. Trust God's Decisions

When we are given a circumcision instead of a rainbow, it's because God is trying to work in our lives. When we find ourselves in these places, the right perspective is to trust God's decisions and have faith that He is in control. We need to also trust His timing because God has purpose for every person in their journey. Peter was jealous of John, but Jesus told Peter to focus on his calling and feed the sheep, not compare God's plans for Peter to His plans for John.

God does not have to explain Himself to us. He holds each of us in the palm of His hands.

3. The Test of Character

When God gives someone else a rainbow and gives us a circumcision, the right response is to rejoice with those who rejoice. Guard your heart against jealousy because jealousy rots the bones. Always remain thankful, trust God, and be a blessing to the person who got what you wanted. It's a test of character. As you are obedient and allow God to work His plans and purposes in your life, He will take care of you. Comparing yourself with others is a trap God wants you to avoid. When you completely trust God, you will not be worried about your life but will rest in confident assurance that God is working all things for your good.

Group Dynamics Idea Mother's Day is a special time for many people, but it can also be a challenging time for others. Be sensitive and take time to ask people how they feel about special holidays like this. If it is meaningful to them, you can celebrate with them. However, if it brings up difficult memories, this can be an opportunity to minister and invite God's healing.

Discuss

1. What are some "rainbows," or blessings, God has given you as a sign?
2. What are some "circumcisions," or cutting away of the flesh, God has used in your life to help grow your character?
3. How do we respond when we are facing difficulty and other people we know are being blessed?
4. What is the difference between believing God *for* something versus believing God Himself?
5. Why do we compare ourselves with others so often? Are there areas where you are tempted to compare yourself to others?
6. How does the enemy use jealousy to disrupt God's plan for our lives to be full of peace?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Sometimes God blesses your life with rainbows.
- Sometimes God wants to cut away your flesh.
- Either way, trust in Him, and guard your heart against being jealous of others.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we trust in You with all our heart. We are thankful for the rainbows in our lives, and we are also thankful for the times You cut away our flesh and grow our character. Help us to not be jealous of others if you are blessing them while we are going through a trial. Help us to always be thankful and keep our eyes on You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Think of ways you can incorporate worship in your group. If there is someone who plays guitar or piano, ask if they would be comfortable leading a song or two. If no one can lead, play a few songs on YouTube that have captions to follow and spend time worshipping together. Incorporating a time of worship into your group can really change the atmosphere and help people focus on Jesus.