

**“In His Time!”
Galatians 4:1-4a**

Why did Jesus come at the particular time in history in which He came? God’s perfect timing for the birth of His Son is more fully appreciated as we consider...

I. The Waiting for God’s Timing (vv.1-3)

*“...under guardians & stewards until the time appointed by the father”
“...we were in bondage under the elements of the world”*

Purpose of the Law

- To Define & Restrain **SIN** (3:19)
- To Reveal the **CHARACTER** of God (3:20-21)
- To Show Our Desperate **CONDITION** (3:22-23)
- To Lead Us to **CHRIST** (3:24-25)

II. The Working-Out of God’s Timing (v.4a)

“BUT when the fullness of time had come GOD...”

God’s Sovereignty Over “HIS-story”

- Babylonian Captivity → Time was right **RELIGIOUSLY**
- Medo-Persian Rule → Time was right **GEOGRAPHICALLY**
- Alexander the Great → Time was right **CULTURALLY**
- Roman Empire → Time was right **POLITICALLY**

III. The Wonder of God’s Timing

**“In His Time!”
Galatians 4:1-4a**

Small Group/Family Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: Share about something you had to wait for and can now see that the timing worked out, and it was worth the wait.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the purpose of God’s Law according to Gal 3:24-25? How were we “in bondage” to the Law prior to coming to Christ for salvation?
2. Gal 4:4 says God sent His Son “when the fullness of the time had come.” Why was the time so right for Jesus to come when He did?
3. When you think of God’s sovereign control of all the events of “HIS-story”, how should this affect your view of:
 - * Global and national events?
 - * Personal setbacks and disappointments?
 - * Your prayer life?

Small Group/Family Prayer Time

Each person share (or think of) something you are waiting for. Begin each prayer with a statement of trust in God’s perfect timing.

Digging Deeper

1. Gal 4:3 says that before receiving Christ we “were in bondage under the elements of the world.” This refers to whatever religious/ritualistic system we may have been trusting in rather than Christ. See these references for further clarification – Gal 4:8-10; Col 2:8, 20-23 and Heb 5:12-14 (where the word is used in v.12).
2. Review Daniel’s interpretation of the king’s dream in Dan 2:36-45 and note the successive kingdoms of Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and then God’s eternal kingdom. Read a good Bible commentary on this text for further insight. Do the same for Dan 7:1-8.
3. God is always right on time! Look up the following verses that refer to some of God’s appointed times – Mk 1:14-15; Lk 21:24; Jn 7:8; Lk 22:15-16 and Col 1:25-26.