

LifeGroup Questions  
Based On: Galatians 4:4  
December 10, 2017

### **Overview**

It had been 400 years since the people of Israel had heard a word from God. The time between Malachi and when the star shown over Bethlehem has been 400 years. Sometimes it is hard to imagine a plan is still in place when nothing seems to be going on. All of us go through periods in our lives when we wonder if God has a purpose or plan as to what is going on. When we don't hear or see anything going on we naturally assume God is either absent or doesn't care. For some reason we believe in order for God to be at work in our lives and the lives of those around us that it needs to be on our time table. If God doesn't do things within our time frame then we can naturally believe He doesn't have a plan our purpose in our lives.

The first lesson we can learn from this verse is the practice of waiting. This is also known as patience. This requires having faith even when events are not occurring on our time table or how we would like them. God has been working throughout the history of all mankind; orchestrating everything according to His plan. His plan is listed in Galatians 4:5 which is "to redeem." If God has been in the business of planning for thousands of years all the events of human history then I find it hard to believe that He forgot about what is going on in my life or yours.

The second lesson we can learn from this passage comes from the phrase "born of a woman." Mary was making wedding plans before she was visited by the angel and told she would give birth to a son. What happens when your plans conflict with God's plan? Mary was engaged and now she is pregnant. During this time she could have been taken out and stoned or she would have lived as an outcast her whole life. Being unwed and pregnant was not part of Mary's plans. She needed to submit to God's plan for her even if it didn't make sense.

God's plan also affected Joseph. When he found out Mary was pregnant he went from planning a wedding to thinking about divorce. "Born of a woman" is a short phrase but it was the fulfillment of God's plan. Both Joseph and Mary needed to accept their roles in God's plan even if it didn't make sense to them or conflicted with their plans.

### **Bible Study: Galatians 4:4**

1. How do you believe God is in control when circumstances in your life don't move as fast as you would like?
2. Read Galatians 4:4. God knew the perfect time for Jesus to come. Discuss a time when you were waiting on God. How did you feel? In what ways did it affect your faith?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. The best Christmas gift is God's righteousness for those in Jesus. Do you think of yourself as becoming God's righteousness?
4. Imagine yourself in the place of Mary and Joseph. They were a young couple looking to get married. How do you think they felt when God's plans disrupted their plans?
5. How do you handle life when your plans don't align with God's plans? God completely takes you in the opposite direction from where you wanted to go.

6. Jesus came at just the right time. When have you experienced God showing up at just the right time in your life?
7. Discuss as a group some of the things you are looking forward to this Christmas season.