

Adult Group Study Guide for December 20, 2020

Timing is Everything

Galatians 4:4-7

Goal: To recognize God's perfect timing in his plan of redemption and to accept his gift of adoption into the family of God.

Key Verses: *But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.* – Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT)

1. Think of a time when you experienced an unexpected encounter with someone. What other examples support the saying that “Timing is Everything”?
2. Read the key verses above from Galatians 4:4-5 and Hebrews 1:1-2. Scripture teaches us that God sent his Son into the world following a deliberate plan at just the right time as foretold by the prophets. In what ways was the world prepared to receive this gift – politically, economically, culturally, and religiously? (See also Mark 1:14-15; and Ephesians 1:7-10).
3. God sent his Son Jesus to redeem us from our slavery to sin and adopt us as his children. Read John 3:16-17 and 1 John 4:9-10. What is the significance of the word “sent” in the key verses above from Paul’s letter to the Galatians and in John’s writing?
4. Why did John mention that Jesus was “born of a woman”? (Galatians 4:4) Play your favorite recording of the Christmas Carol “What Child is This?” and ponder the questions raised in the song. Search You Tube for a recording. Here is a link to one sung by Chris Tomlin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jroBAI3WW8>.
5. Read Galatians 4:6-7. What is the significance of the word “adoption” as a way to describe what God has done for us in Jesus? What benefits come to us as an heir? (Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:3-10)
6. Read Galatians 3:26-29. What does it mean for you to be called a child of God? How does our adoption as part of the family of God make all of our differences disappear in his sight? How will that change the way you think about yourself and the way that you relate to other people this week?