

The Miracle of the Moment

Galatians 4:4

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" - Gal. 4:4

Main Point: Jesus arrived at the right moment in history to provide a way to forgiveness. Have you responded to the Gift, or are you delaying?

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

When have you given a gift where timing was very important?

Has someone given you a gift that provided for you at just the right time?

Have a Volunteer Read Galatians 4:4.

Timing is important in so many areas of life. Do you plant tomatoes in November? Go to the beach in January? Diet 2 weeks before Christmas? We don't do these things because it's not the right time! What we see in God's word is that God's timing during the first Christmas was miraculous. As we reflect on the miracle of that moment during this Advent season, may it better prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of the Savior.

Christmas was all about timing because **JESUS ARRIVED AT THE RIGHT MOMENT.** (v.4)

How was God's timing for Jesus arrival perfect? What historical pieces had been set in motion to allow the message of the Messiah to spread?

God has been involved in our world and our lives from the beginning, and even then He was waiting for the right moment. Read **Genesis 3:15** and discuss how this passage shows God's plan already in motion. How do Paul's words in **Romans 16:20** reaffirm this?

From Mary and Martha's point of view, Jesus arrived late too late for Lazarus. How was God's timing different from those involved and what was the impact? Read the story in **Luke 11:5-7;17-21; 41-44** and consider how this relates to times in your life.

Christmas was all about timing because **JESUS' ARRIVAL MEANT PROVISION.** (v.4)

What did Jesus' arrival provide that the Jewish people had been waiting for? How were their expectations of provision different than what they received?

What was so important about the provision of a physical savior, i.e. God in the flesh? Read **Hebrews 4:14-16** and discuss.

How has Jesus provided for you since His arrival in your life? What do you need Him to provide now that maybe you haven't asked for?

Christmas is all about timing because **JESUS' ARRIVAL MEANS NO MORE DELAYS.** (v.4)

Read **Galatians 3:1-11**. What dangerous mistruth were the Galatians falling into? How would this lie delay God's provision through Jesus in their lives?

How do we allow the world to influence and delay our decision to follow and become more like Christ?

What do **James 4:14** and **Psalm 39:5** say that remind us we don't have time to delay?

What will you stop putting off this week to be more decisive in your relationship with the Lord?

Pray:

As you close your group time pray that God would place the wonder of the miracle of Christmas in your heart. Pray He would make himself evident in your daily lives as we trust in His provision. Ask God to point out where you have been delaying in following Him and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you take action on His prompts.

Connect:

Listen to Steven Curtis Chapman's song "The Miracle of Christmas"