THE FULLNESS
TIMING IS EVERYTHING
GALATIANS 4:1-7

COMMUNITY LIFE

MAIN POINT

In the fullness of time, God sent His Son to become sin so that we could be children and no longer slaves to sin.

INTRODUCTION

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "timing is everything?"

Share about an instance where timing was particularly important to the outcome of a situation. What were the various possible outcomes dependent on timing?

Most of us have experienced or heard of instances where the timing in a situation made a significant difference in the final outcome. Maybe you were running late and realized a car accident occured on your route to work when you typically would have been in that specific location. Maybe you had to show patience in a time of anxiety, but the fruit of this patience became immediately evident. Today, we will look at a passage where Paul said that God waited until exactly the right time to send Jesus. He was not a moment early or late. God's timing is always right, no matter the situation.

DISCUSSION

> **READ GALATIANS 4:1-7.**

Compare and contrast Paul's idea of a son and a slave. How can a son, or "heir," be the same as a slave?

What were the Galatians enslaved to? Why is it important that we recognize our position as slaves to sin before Jesus came to redeem us? If a person doesn't acknowledge his or her need for salvation, can he or she be saved? Explain.

What are some gifts you've given or received that had "strings," limitations, or rules attached? How does this relate to God's gift of Jesus?

What do you think "fullness of time" means? What does it mean for the work of Christ?

Where do you currently need to wait on God's timing in your life?

Based on verses 5-6, what do we receive as a result of our redemption?

How did Paul describe our relationship with God after salvation?

What part of your inheritance excites you the most? Why?

APPLICATION

What would change in your life this week if you were to live fully in the gift of Jesus—an heir and child of God who is no longer a slave to sin?