



**BIG IDEA:** God is working while we wait.

**BIBLE BASIS:** Galatians 4

**KEY VERSE:** “But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.”  
Galatians 4: 4-5

## THE 400 YEARS OF SILENCE

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/67HqiVGt6xl>

There were about 400 years between the prophecies of Malachi and the opening of the New Testament. These are called “silent years” because there were no inspired words from God during this time. But there were major political, cultural, and religious changes that prepared the world for the arrival of Jesus. **Political Changes:** There was a succession of five nations that ruled Palestine: Persia, Greece, Egypt, Syria, and Rome. **Cultural Changes:** Many things occurred that made the time just right for Jesus’ ministry and the writing of the New Testament. For example, the Greek language spread throughout the world, providing a common language. The Roman period provided a time of unprecedented peace, magnificent highways, and uniform laws that helped the spread of the gospel by the first-century church. **Religious Changes:** The Jews developed a new zeal for the Law. As a result, several new parties arose, including the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Scribes. And new institutions were established, including the synagogue and the Sanhedrin. All of these changes set the stage for the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus Christ, to come “in the fullness of time” (Galatians 4:4). Though there were all these changes, The Lord remained silent to His people. But during his silence, he set that stage for Jesus to come. The Jewish people must have grown tired of waiting and waiting for the messiah to come! Have you ever grown tired of waiting for something? Have you ever had to dig deep down to have the patience for something to happen? That’s exactly what The Jews had to do. But all along, God knew that Jesus would enter the world at the perfect time.

## BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers:

- What do you find yourself waiting for?
- Do you show patience when you wait?
- Why does God want us to show patience?

For Elementary:

- What do you find yourself waiting for?
- Why does God want us to show patience?
- Can we trust that God is setting the stage for what is to come?
- What can you tell others about patience?

## **BIG BIBLE STORY ACTIVITIES**

**Prayer prompt:** Write a prayer to God and tell Him why we are going to be patient while waiting.

**Journal prompt:** Can you think of a time that you lost your temper because you weren't patient? Write a letter to God, asking for forgiveness.

**Bible prompt:** Read it for yourself: Galatians 4. Say a prayer to God of how thankful you are that in His perfect timing, He sent His one and only son.

**Art prompt:** God is setting the stage for what is to come just like He did during the 400 years of silence. Draw a picture of you thanking God for sending Jesus.