

# Jesus Came to Save Sinners

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December 3, 2023 ▪ Nick Braitto

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Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus came to \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus came to save \_\_\_\_\_.

## ***1 Timothy 1:12-17***

<sup>12</sup>I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, <sup>13</sup>though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**, of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

**Open:** What are some Christmas (Advent) practices you have observed or practiced which you believe can be spiritually beneficial?

**Read:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

### **Discuss:**

1. Advent is a time for celebrating the coming of the Christ. According to this passage, how might we answer the question of why Christ came down? How and why should that produce a response of celebration in us?
2. In verses 12-13 Paul celebrates what Christ did for him by remembering his past and contrasting that with what God was now doing in him. If you were to describe the difference Christ has made in your life as Paul does here, how would you phrase it?
3. In verse 15, Paul tells us that we can confidently trust and accept the saying "that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." What truths in this statement might some people have trouble believing and why? On what basis do you believe this statement?
4. In verse 15, Paul also says, "I am the foremost [of sinners]," which he seems to believe. (See vv. 13, 16). Based on verse 16, why might Paul want Timothy to know this about Paul? How would you use this passage to counsel someone who struggles to believe that God could save them?
5. As you read through this passage, what actions do you see Jesus engaged in or initiating? What do each of these tell us about the character and purpose of Jesus? Take a moment to thank God for what He has done in your life and in the lives of each other.
6. In verse 16, Paul says that God's purpose in saving him was to display His "perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him." How is God's work in you displaying His goodness to others? How can we ensure that others connect this grace in our lives to God's goodness—and more importantly, to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

**Apply:** This Advent season consider writing down each day a different and specific response to the following statement: "I'm thankful Christ came down because..." Perhaps share one response to this statement with your small group right now.

**Pray:** Begin by praising God together for His grace in each of our lives as Paul did in verse 17. Pray that God will open the eyes of others you know who have yet to believe in Christ. Ask God to flood our minds with understanding and appreciation of how His love is displayed in the sending of His Son.