



Sermon Discussion Questions

For small group leaders or for a whole small group to use

“Jesus Came to Destroy the Works of the Devil” | (1 John 3:4–10) | December 21, 2025

Drew Hunter

Sermon Overview

Main Idea

Our Advent sermons seek to answer the question, *Why Did Jesus Come?* Some point to Jesus as the supreme example and teacher of love. While this is true, it is incomplete. Jesus came to bring forgiveness. One of his central messages is that our problem is much deeper than behavior. His example of love exposes just how impossible it is for us to become like him on our own. And he also told us that our sin is so deep we deserve eternal judgment for it. John shows us that Jesus came not just to forgive our sin—but to eradicate it from our lives. He came to renovate our hearts and completely change our desires. He came to change us at the core of our personalities—in a way we could never do on our own. Advent means Jesus did not come to just give us an example—he came to bring both forgiveness of sins and the transformation of our hearts and lives.

Sermon Outline

1. Jesus Came to Take Away Sin (v4–6)
2. Jesus Came to Destroy the Works of the Devil (v7–8)
3. Jesus Came to Give Us New Birth (v9–10)

Quotation(s)

“Here’s a way that we like to summarize how Jesus removes sin: He came to remove the penalty, power, and presence of sin. When you trust in Christ, he removes the penalty of sin by forgiving you. He also removes the power of sin so that even though you still sin, you are no longer lawless and rebellious to him. And one day when Jesus returns, he will remove the presence of sin altogether. This is the purpose of Advent—Jesus came to take away our sins.”

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Discussion Questions

Read the Scripture Text (if the text is shorter, consider reading it together several times).

Initial Engagement

- What is the main idea of the text, or what did the sermon focus on? (See above to review the main point)
- What insight from the text or sermon stood out to you most, and why? (Encourage several people to share)

Deeper Reflection on the Meaning and Implications

1. What specific words of Jesus demonstrate that he is more than merely a supreme example and teacher of love?
2. To what is John referring when he writes “...everyone who make a practice of sinning also practice lawlessness.”
3. Explain in your own words how Jesus removes the penalty, power, and presence of sin in the life of the believer.
4. How have you specifically experienced personal transformation through your relationship with Christ? How has the Lord affected the power of sin in your life?



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5. Examine these questions to ask yourself if you believe the gospel and have been born again:
- If you do not see that your problem is deeper than anything you can fix; if you think you could maybe try hard and earn your salvation; you are not yet born again.
 - If you cannot see any evidence of the new birth—there is no sincere obedience to Jesus in your life (not perfect obedience, but a true change)... you are probably not born again.
 - If you hear about how Jesus came to take away sin and destroy the work of the devil—but that does not at all make you want to sin less, you are probably not born again.
 - If you know about Jesus and believe the truth about him, but you don't know him personally, and you aren't eager to know him more, you are not born again.
 - If you are trusting Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and you long for him to change you, this is a sign of being born again.
 - If you are often bothered by the fact that you still sin and aren't growing as fast as you'd like, you are probably born again.
 - If you hear that Jesus came to take away sin and destroy the work of the devil—and you're grateful for that and it makes you want to sin less, you are probably born again.
 - If you don't just believe the truth about Jesus, but you trust him personally, you seek to know him personally, and you want to know him more, you are probably born again.

Final Response

- What is one thing you want to remember or do in light of this sermon or discussion?