

# First & Second Advent: Why Jesus Came

## [1 Timothy 1:15–17](#)

The believers of Jesus' day had expectations about how the Messiah would rescue them. But Christ didn't come to save us from oppressive worldly powers; he came to save us from our sin. And his work didn't end there—he continues to bring drastic life-change to his people to draw others into his salvation and to reveal God's grace.

## Application

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1. What makes you desperate for Jesus to return (e.g., an ongoing struggle with sin, pain or sickness, a broken relationship)? Take some time to express your hurt and longing to God and to thank him for being Immanuel—the one who is with you.
2. How do you present yourself to others? How much energy do you spend trying to appear perfect and hide your sin? How often do you confess and share honestly about your struggles? Who can you be vulnerable with in order to show God's grace and power at work in your life?
3. What evidence of sanctification (God's work to make you more like Jesus over time) can you clearly see in your story? What are the sins, struggles, or habits God has or is delivering you from? How can you slow down this week to celebrate and praise God for his transformative power in your life?

## Key Points

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- Christmas—the story of Jesus' first Advent—is good news for those who are desperate, hurting, and longing for salvation.
- If you identify as a sinner, your Savior has come, and he has everything you need.
- When people see the transformation and growth in our lives, it is compelling, pointing them to God as the only one who can enact real change.

## Other Scripture References

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[Mark 2:17](#)

[Acts 26:1–23](#)

[Ephesians 3:7–11](#)