



When it comes to understanding why Jesus came, we don't have to put words in his mouth. He made a number of very clear statements about the subject. So this series will explore the reasons behind the greatest mission ever.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1 Read Ephesians 6:12 and 1 John 3:8.** What was the worldview of the NT authors when it came to the existence of evil in the world? Why does our culture find the idea of a devil and evil spirits more "unreal" than many other cultures around the world?

**2 JESUS CAME... to take the battle to the enemy.** The gospel accounts don't depict Jesus as trying to avoid the devil, but as trying to pursue him. And the enemy knew he was coming. **Read Luke 4:34 and Matthew 8:29.** Why is it significant to remember that this has been his mission since the beginning of the Bible (**Read Genesis 3:15**)?

**Note:** Rick pointed out that *"Bethlehem was D-Day, and Jesus came into enemy territory to turn the tide of the battle. All his healings and exorcisms were acts of war. To rescue He had to destroy."*

**3 JESUS "DESTROYS"... by exposing lies.** From the beginning Satan's chief tactic has been to deceive. **Read John 8:44.** What are some of the ways Satan tries to "normalize untruths" in order to deceive us? Share some examples of how believing these types of lies can have very "destructive" consequences in a person's life. Follow up discussion: Jesus came to teach us to love God with all of our mind, and He did so by constantly exposing commonly held lies. Share some examples from the teachings of Jesus that demonstrate how He was exposing the lies of the evil one (**see Matthew 6:27, 7:12, Luke 12:15, and John 3:16**). Which of these have been most helpful to you?

**4 JESUS "DESTROYS"... by releasing captives.**

Jesus came to destroy the strongholds that destroy people. **Read Matthew 12:28-29.** What stands out to you the most from this passage? Follow up discussion: Rick went on to say, *"Every conversion is a power encounter where Satan is obliged to release his hold on someone's life and acknowledge the superiority of Christ."* Share a recent example of how you've experienced this to be true (how you've seen the "kingdom come").

**5 JESUS "DESTROYS"... by disarming death.** The death and resurrection of Christ is the battle that has decided the war. **Read Hebrews 2:14-15 and Revelation 1:17-18.** What are the implications of the fact that Jesus's death and resurrection disarmed Satan and his power?

**6 JESUS' VICTORY is available and unassailable.** Rick closed by reminding us that *"It is true that right now the serpent still slithers and the evil he sows still destroys. But followers of Jesus need not live intimidated or incarcerated lives. We are washed in the blood, filled with the Spirit, and clothed in Christ."* With that in mind, why is it important to know that you are fighting from victory, rather than fighting for victory? As you go through this next week reflect on this question, *"Are you living like the kingdom has come?"*

