



How to Hug a Vampire

DEALING WITH PEOPLE WHO SUCK THE JOY OF LIFE OUT OF YOU

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR VAMPIRE (Week 3)

OPENING: What has been the most significant lesson you've learned from the entire series?

WORSHIP:

Opening Prayer—Spend some time praising God for the things He has taught you over the last three weeks and how it will impact the way you live.

The Biggest Sucker.

The biggest vampire inside all of us, is not Satan, it's our *sin nature*. It's the reason why we suck. The sin nature is that inclination inside of us that makes us rebellious against God. When we speak of the sin nature, we refer to the fact that we have a natural inclination to sin—to go against God; given the choice to do God's will or our own, we will naturally choose to do our own thing (Read Romans 8:7). Sin nature just keeps going against the will of God; and it's the biggest vampire in our life. Our sin nature will always be a part of who we are. According to Pastor, *when do we ultimately experience freedom from our sin nature?* (Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

To Train Our Vampire.

The Bible says, even though this vampire lives in us, we don't have to be controlled by it. In fact, we can train the vampire inside to be subservient to a higher power—the Holy Spirit. Read Romans 8:5-6.

1. WE NEED THE PRESENCE OF AND OBEDIENCE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

We can't train our vampire using our will-power alone. Our will-power can only do so much. We need the power of the Holy Spirit. According to pastor, *when do we receive the Holy Spirit?* Read Ephesians 1:13-14.

We need His presence in our life so we can train our vampire to be subservient. Without the Holy Spirit, we can try and try, but we will fail and fail.

Read Romans 8:9-14.

Let Him take control over your life. Truth is, no matter how well we think we're doing, we actually suck at running life on our own. We need a higher power—the one whose desire for us is to bless us, not to harm us; to give hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11); to help us experience an abundant life (John 10:10). Training your vampire is *NOT ABOUT WINNING A FIGHT, IT'S SURRENDERING TO WIN.*

Do you let the Spirit take control of your life?

Let Him have the First and Final Word. Read Galatians 5:25. Allow God to have the strongest voice in your life. That means, giving Him the first and final word in every aspect. Who has the first and final word in your life?

Let His honor be your main goal. Every victory we experience points to the work of the Spirit in our life. Seek to honor the name of Jesus in all you do. In fact, that's a good axiom for life: *If God will not be honored in it, I won't do it.*

Are you currently involved in something that does not honor the Lord?

With the Holy Spirit, you disarm the vampire. Yielding to the Holy Spirit help make the vampire of sin nature powerless over your life. Vampires keep us from reaching our potential in Christ! It slows us down. Read Hebrews 12:1-2. When we let the Spirit take control we experience freedom (Read Romans 6:1). We are free to pursue your destiny in Christ without being slowed down by the vampire. Training your vampire is *NOT A PROJECT THAT YOU FINISH, IT'S A PROCESS THAT YOU ENDURE.*

2. WE NEED GOD'S WORD AS OUR FOOD AND OUR WEAPON.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. The Bible is an important tool to train the vampire inside of us. It is our spiritual food and our spiritual weapon. The Word of God is meant to elevate our spirit; to help us navigate through the choppy waters of life; to make us into the kind of people God wants for us to be.

Fill your life with God's Word. Read Psalm 119:11." The word of God is your weapon against the lies the vampire wants for you to believe. Do you regularly fill your heart with God's Word?

Feed your soul, starve the vampire. The word of God is our spiritual food. Read Matthew 4:4 and Deuteronomy 8:3. The Bible helps us nourish who we are and what we have in God. If we feed our soul with the Word of God, it grows stronger and more powerful. Don't feed the vampire inside of you by giving in to what it wants. Let the vampire starve until it becomes too powerless to control you.

With the Word of God, you strengthen your soul and starve the vampire. Never underestimate the power of the Word of God in your life! Never miss any opportunity to strengthen your soul with God's Word. Speak the Word of God over your life daily! Always recall and declare His promises and apply its principles. Training your vampire is *NOT ABOUT YOUR HAPPINESS, IT'S ABOUT YOUR HOLINESS* (read John 17:17).

3. WE NEED A POWERFUL COMMUNITY AS OUR REINFORCEMENT.

Your vampire always tends to make you withdraw from community. The sin nature makes us think that we are better than we really; it makes us feel that we don't need anyone. Look at Romans 12:3-5. Paul is saying, don't think you can do it alone; you're a part of a bigger body. We need community. One of the main points we learned from this series is, *surround yourself with people who can help you discover who you can be in God*. The best place to find people like that is in the church.

Find a community to commit to for the long haul. Find the right church and commit yourself to it. Find the right community for you and treat it as your family—don't be a floater. According to pastor, "*Trees that are in pots grow slower than trees that grow in forests.*" Find a community in which you could grow. And part of growth is using your gifts to serve in the body (Read Romans 12:6-8).

Find a community that will challenge you.

Pastor said, "*If you really want a more significant advance in your spiritual growth, you don't just need behavior modification, you need spiritual transformation.*" We don't need a church that gives us a list of dos and don'ts, we need a church that challenges to reach our God-given purpose and potential!

How has Mosaic Church helped challenge you in your spiritual growth?

Your Highest Motivation.

Training your vampire is NOT ABOUT LIVING UP TO A STANDARD, IT'S ABOUT LIVING FOR YOUR SAVIOR.

This is the most powerful motivation to live your life.

To live your life for the one who gave His life for you! To glorify Him in everything you do!

The one who chose to embrace you in love—despite your condition, despite your suckiness, despite your weaknesses; despite your inconsistency; despite your sinfulness—He chose to come down from heaven, live a sinless life so that He can offer Himself as sacrifice to penalty of sin that we deserve! His name is Jesus. The one who rose from the dead to seal our victory, He went back to heaven to prepare a place for us. And He did leave us in lurch, He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of us—as a guarantee that we belong to Him! And because we belong to Him, we live for Him!

We don't train our vampires so that we can feel good, we disarm the monster inside of us, so that we can put on the smile on the face of our Savior and to live for Him, freely!

CLOSING SONG:

"FOREVER" (Hillsong United) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJsB3QgBE3M>