



# How to Hug a Vampire

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

## Suck-Proof Your Life (Week 2)

**OPENING:** Choose three people in the group who can share what they learned from last Sunday's sermon.

### WORSHIP:

- Sing, THANK YOU, JESUS (by Hillsong Worship) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHaQDS1\\_uvA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHaQDS1_uvA)

### STUDY:

**How to Suck-Proof our life.**

#### **1: GOD CALLS US TO LOVE EVERYONE, BUT SOME PEOPLE IN OUR LIFE SHOULD BE LOVED AT A DISTANCE.**

There are people in our life who feed and bring out the worst in us, they hold us back from reaching our potential, keep us from becoming who God wants us to be, see the monster in you and feed it. These are people that we need to love at a distance. How?

- We limit their influence in our life.* We can't stop them from speaking negatively about us; we can't stop them from judging us, but we can limit their influence in our life. Read Proverbs 13:20.  
Negative people can only be as powerful as you allow them to be! Don't give anyone the power to make you miserable.
  - Are there people in your life who influence you negatively?
  - Can you identify individuals in your life who are holding you back from reaching your potential in God?
  - How do you limit their influence without stopping from loving them? Read Luke 6:27-31.
  - Instead of them influencing you, pray that God will reverse the situation and help you influence them positively.
- We manage our relationships.* We are called to love all people, but we must accept the fact that we cannot reach out to all people. Now, that's not an excuse for not reaching out to people, but we must understand that there are people who will never listen to us. That was true for Jesus. The Pharisees who followed him never really listened for the purpose of learning; they listened for the purpose of nit-picking. Jesus did not love them less; instead he spent most of his time with people who recognized their need for God. Read Matthew 9:10-13.
  - Are you actively spending time with people in your life who need to know Jesus?
  - Can you identify individuals who allow you to have a loud voice in their life? How can you maximize your influence? Think of ways how can you use your influence to bring them to Jesus.
  - Find ways how you can make new friends whom you can influence for God?
- We don't write people off of our lives.* We just lower the volume of the negative people but we don't stop praying for them, we don't stop speaking in faith over them, we don't stop ministering to them or sowing good seeds in our relationship with them, we don't stop seeing what God is able to do in their lives!
  - We do not give up on people because God knows something about them that we don't.
  - Don't ever stop seeing purpose and potential in their life—even at a distance.
  - Think of people whom you have written off of your life and begin praying for them.

#### **2. FIND YOUR PURPOSE AND PASSION IN GOD.**

Nobody can take what you have in God—Your identity, your purpose, your potential, your inheritance, your salvation. When you nourish your identity in God, nourish your purpose and potential in God, nourish your inheritance and salvation, vampires will find it hard to suck the life out of you. Jesus knew his purpose, but he also kindled his passion. Purpose is knowing what

you're supposed to do; passion is fire and excitement in doing what you're supposed to do! Luke 6:12, tells us that Jesus nourished who He was in God by spending time with God. Read 2 Timothy 1:6-9. We learn that we should...

- A. *Fan into flame what you have been given.* No powerful vampire can ever take what you have away! But you should never stop finding opportunities to nourish who you are and what you have in God! Paul used the Greek word, *anazopurein* which translates as "fan into flame" which denotes continuous, ongoing action. We don't stop fanning or nurturing the gift we have.
  - Do you remember what pastor said about the difference ways we can nurture our gift?
  - Are you nurturing your gifts consistently?
- B. *Not be ashamed of...Jesus and your calling.* Jesus is the reason why you live; He is the reason why you love. And he calls you to love others, so that they can know Him! Paul tells Timothy, finding and fulfilling your purpose is hard—there will always be haters, there will always be difficult situations. Just keep doing what you're call to do even if it's hard. Read 2 Timothy 1:11-12.
  - Find your purpose and passion in God, because when you do, no one can talk you out of it.
  - What are your fears when it comes to sharing your faith and bringing others to church? Read 2 Timothy 1:7-8.

### **3. SURROUND YOURSELF WITH PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP YOU DISCOVER WHO YOU CAN BE IN GOD.**

If you want to suck-proof your life, surround yourself with people who can help you discover who you can be in God. This means allowing imperfect but Godly individuals to speak into your life and letting them to help you discover your potential, and pursue your purpose in Christ. Jesus chose 12 men out of the hundreds who follow him (Luke 6:13-16). These 12 men were a constant reminder of God's calling in his life (Matthew 9:10-13, Luke 19:10). Life is designed to be lived in community. If you want to suck-proof your life, choose the right people you want to be in community with.

- A. *Allow God the loudest voice in your life.* Aside from the Holy Spirit and the Bible, God uses godly people to be His voice in your life too. They will not always agree with us, but we need to be receptive when they speak—because they speak in love not in hate. These aren't vampires. These are life-givers who are sucking the vampire venom out of you. So surround yourself with godly, life-giving people.
- B. *A good follower makes a good leader.* Read Hebrews 13:7. Being able to submit to leadership is a sign of maturity. Leadership is in all of us; it just needs to be nurtured in the right environment by the right people.

### **4. HELP OTHERS DISCOVER WHO THEY CAN BE IN GOD.**

You don't just surround yourself with people who can help you, you must desire to be the kind of person you would want to be surrounded with.

- A. *Be willing to let God use you.* God wants you to come alongside others to help them discover who they can be in God. That's fulfilling your purpose, that's pursuing your calling, that's claiming your destiny!
  - Find people whom you can help to grow in God.
  - Allow God to develop your leadership by intentionally helping them to grow.
  - Pray that you can start a DGroup with the people you help grow.
- B. *Keep doing what God calls you to do regardless of the vampires around you.* Not everyone will appreciate or love what God calls you to do, but do it anyway. Read Acts 5:29.

### **CLOSING DECLARATION:**

Read Psalm 138:7-8 together aloud. And pray it over each other's life.