



# How to Hug a Vampire

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

## We All Suck (Week 1)

**OPENING:** Which would you choose to be your friend, Edward Cullen or Count Dracula, why?

### SERMON RECAP:

- Vampires are people who suck the joy and life out of us, the difficult people we deal with every day.
- Do you remember the five types of vampires that pastor mentioned in his sermon?
- Why are we supposed to love the people who suck the joy and life out of us? (Matthew 5:43-45a)

### STUDY:

#### **Lesson 1: Loving people who suck the life out of you starts with realizing how much you suck too.**

We learned that we are vampires too. We can be the difficult people that others have to deal with and love. For us to be able to love people who are difficult to love, we must realize that we are also difficult to love because we too, suck.

#### **What makes us suck?**

**1. Unbridled Pride.** Unbridled Pride is one of the biggest reasons why we suck. What is a bridle and what is it for? Unbridled Pride can cause a lot of damage and pain; and suck the life and joy out of people!

*Pride is an attitude which can be controlled and adjusted.* Read Philippians 2:3-8.

- A. Bridling your pride is not losing yourself worth, it's losing the battle with what keeps you from discovering who you truly are. It is using whom God called you to be for the benefit of others.
- B. Bridling your pride allows the real you to grow; the real you is the person God is creating you to be—the real you who embraces humility is the one that God upholds (1 Peter 5:6 read on screen).

**2. Unresolved Issues.** We all have done something or experienced something in that past made us the way we are.

Our unresolved issues contribute to the reason why we suck. And the Bible tells us to not let these unresolved issues direct the way we live. Instead, we are encouraged to resolved these issues

- A. According to Colossians 3:5-10, what should we put to death and rid ourselves of?
- B. According to Colossians 3:12-17, what should we put on and develop in ourselves?

**3. Unmet Expectations.** Whether it's frustrations with people or unanswered prayers, unmet expectations always have a way of sucking the life and joy out of us; and in turn, we suck the life and joy out of others (Read James 4:1-3). The vampire of unmet expectations within you causes you to fight with others. How do we kill the vampire of unmet expectations? Read James 4:7-10.

- A. *Submit to God* means accepting the love and authority of God in your life; and to not be ruled by your foolish and selfish desires that could only lead to frustration.
- B. *Resist the devil.* The devil uses your unmet expectations to suck the life and joy out of your life and others'.
- C. *Draw near to God.* Build a deeper relationship with God.
- D. *Humble yourself before Him.* Humility helps us rise above all your unmet expectations; they will no longer dictate you.

#### **Lesson 2: Real love doesn't leak, it overflows.**

Love doesn't leak, it overflows—and the more we realize how much God loves us, the more we should learn to love the people who suck the life and joy out of us.

God is calling us to love people—regardless of their past, their failures, their present situation and their suckiness—because we are no different from them.

**1. Jesus washes the feet of people who sucked.** Read John 13:1-5. In this act of washing the disciples' feet, Jesus reminds us that real love doesn't leak, it overflows! He did not operate in hate or anger; He did not operate out of brokenness and need; He operated out of the overflow of God's love in His life. He is so full of God's love it spilled over to his disciples.

**2. Jesus served people who sucked.** Read John 13:6-11. Jesus washed His disciples' feet as a symbol of His love for them even though they suck! The disciples symbolize the billions of people whom Jesus came to die for. The people who suck the life and joy out of you are people who matter to God, and God wants you to reach out to them. Don't wait for them to change before you reach out to them—reach out to them now. Love them now. Serve them now. Bring them to church now. Kill the vampire sting inside of them with the love of Jesus. Don't just let love leak from your life, let God's love overflow!

**3. Jesus blesses those whose love overflows.** Read John 13:12-16. Here we find Jesus saying that he has set an example for us to follow. What is the promise of God to those who will love and serve people in verse 17?

### **APPLICATION:**

1. What kind of a vampire do you think you are (Debbie Downer, Blamer, User, Complainer, Scandalmonger)?
2. What has God taught you today to *kill* the vampire inside of you?
3. How can you allow God's love overflow in your life this week?
4. Seek to feed the "real" you by bridling your pride.
5. Nourish the new creation (2 Cor. 5:17) inside of you by:
  - A. *Submitting to God.* Surrender your life and everyday to God.
  - B. *Resisting the devil.* Don't listen to the lies of the enemies (no matter how good they sound).
  - C. *Drawing near to God.* Fill your heart and mind with God's Word.
  - D. *Humbling yourself before God.* Resist the temptation of feeding your old self.
6. Pray for yourself, that you will live in the victory of God instead of being overtaken by the vampire inside of you.
7. Reach out to a vampire in your life this week, and invite them to Mosaic this coming weekend.