

## Loving Overly Needy People

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” - John 15:12 NIV

### EMOTIONAL VAMPIRES

- Financial \_\_\_\_\_ . Incurably \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Detrimentially \_\_\_\_\_ . Babbling \_\_\_\_\_ .

### RELIEF vs. RESTORATION

- RELIEF is immediate and temporary \_\_\_\_\_ .
- RESTORATION is working with people to restore them to their \_\_\_\_\_ potential.

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. - Acts 3:1-8 NIV

### THREE PRAYERS OF A RESTORER

1. “God, Help Me To See What People Truly \_\_\_\_\_, Not Just What They \_\_\_\_\_.”

- Identify the real \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Pay attention to \_\_\_\_\_, not just words.

2. “God, Help Me Stay Out Of Your Way By Not Continually \_\_\_\_\_ People From The \_\_\_\_\_.”

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. - Galatians 6:7 NIV

3. “God, Help Me Remember That I’m In \_\_\_\_\_ Too, And That You Are Always The \_\_\_\_\_.”

“Yet I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.”

- Psalm 70:5 NIV

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Describe a time when you received help but it did more harm than good because it wasn’t what you really needed?
- In what ways have you seen the difference between relief and restoration?
- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Why do you think our typical first reaction to needy people is to give them relief instead of restoration?
- What kind of impact do you think the church would have if we focused more on restoration instead of relief when it comes to dealing with needy people?
- Why is it important that we don’t continually rescue overly needy people from their own consequences?
- Where do you need God’s restoration in your life?