



WEEK 1

LIFE Hacks

FINDING A BETTER WAY TO LIVE IN BABYLON

DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

Life Hacks 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.

A life hack is a clever way to solve everyday problems. The reality is that disciples today need to think creatively when considering how to navigate upstream in a downstream world. This lesson focuses on some innovative ways to live out our faith in a modern-day Babylon, taken from a genius life-hacker named Daniel.

1 SURVIVING IN BABYLON? Read **Daniel 1:1-2**. The book of Daniel begins with the announcement that God was letting the Babylonians take over the Israelites, a people even more wicked than themselves. How does knowing God allowed such a tragedy help you understand the way God deals with us today? Why is God often “harder” on His own people?

2 Read Daniel 1:3-7. Nebuchadnezzar’s plan was to assimilate Daniel and his friends into the Babylonian culture, customs and religion. There must have been a lot of pressure to conform for the young Israelites. What are some of the greatest pressures we face in today’s world that try to mold us into something other than what God wants?

3 When in Babylon, God’s people have tended to respond by ***pulling away, fighting back, or giving in.*** Daniel models a more winsome and creative way to live when in Babylon. We do not have to ***“be like” to be liked.*** How does one decide when to go along with culture, and when to resist the flow of culture? What are some things that help you resist the flow of culture?

4 THRIVING IN BABYLON! Choose ***battles that really matter.*** Read **Daniel 1:8-16**. One important life hack when in Babylon is to pray for the wisdom to know what

lines to draw and what issues to drop. Daniel drew the line when it came to the king’s menu. Why did he make a stand there? What can we learn from the way he handled the situation?

5 THRIVING IN BABYLON! Hold ***your convictions graciously.*** Read **Daniel 1:17-21**. Learn this life hack from Daniel when in Babylon—if you want others to view you favorably, treat them graciously. What are some practical ways you can hold to your convictions without ever being rude, obnoxious, or disrespectful?

6 THRIVING IN BABYLON! Trust ***the impact of an obedient life.*** Read **1 Peter 2:11-12**. One of the most important life hacks to remember when in Babylon is this—people are not convicted by how loud we shout but by how well we live. What is one thing you can change this week to allow your life to speak better?

7 THRIVING IN BABYLON! Remember ***that God is on the throne.*** The sovereignty of God is a huge theme in the book of Daniel (see 1:2, 9, and 17) Why is it important to remember that ***God is in control of who is in control?*** How will that truth impact how you behave and interact with others this week?