



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. The series focuses on some innovative ways to live out our faith in a modern-day Babylon, taken from a genius life-hacker named Daniel.

1 INTERPRETATION: Nebuchadnezzar is troubled... Read Daniel 2:1-13. Nebuchadnezzar was frustrated by the inability of his well-paid experts to give him the wisdom he needed. Why couldn't these experts provide the answers he demanded? What are some of the sources people go to today for wisdom that fail to deliver?

2 Read Daniel 2:14-18. Nebuchadnezzar decides to terminate their employment...literally. Once again Daniel is caught in the backwash of others' failings, and once again he responds with calm and tact. Daniel responded to a threat on his life by calling out to God in the company of his closest friends. What does this tell us about the importance of prayer and community?

3 Read Daniel 2:19-23. Daniel thanked God for giving the meaning of the dream before he even knew if it would save his life. Share a time when you gave God praise in the middle of your trial instead of waiting to see how it would end.

4 INTERPRETATION: Daniel is humble. Read Daniel 2:24-30. Once again we see Daniel holding on to his faith without holding in contempt those who hold other views. How and when do you need to follow Daniel's example?

5 INTERPRETATION: God is honored! Read Daniel 2:44-45 and Luke 1:31-33. Daniel's interpretation challenged Neb's view of his own importance, but honoring God was more important to Daniel. What can we learn from the way he handled the situation?

6 APPLICATION: Real faith is not developed in a vacuum. Life in exile demands trust; trust is developed by the trials of exile. Obedience must trump convenience for faith to last in Babylon. How have you seen this play out in your life?

7 APPLICATION: The future is not for kings to decide. The future is not up for grabs, because God already has a firm grip on it. So it is important not to get too worked up about the activities and plans of the self-important. How should knowing this truth impact the way you live this week?

8 APPLICATION: Our foundation is not shaken if it's built on the Rock! The Rock of Ages is not held by human hands, because it does not depend on human strength to endure. To thrive in Babylon, we must stop investing so much in the "statue." What are some ways that Christians are tempted to invest more and care more about the "statue" instead of the "rock"? What are some practical ways we can seek first the kingdom of God while living in Babylon?