



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 A WORD TO THE FOOLISH. Read Daniel 5:1-6. This was more than just a stupid fraternity prank; this was a deliberate act of blasphemy. This party got out of hand and now it was in God’s hand. Daniel 5 is a chapter about judgment. Few biblical truths today are considered more unpopular than the idea that God will judge the world. Why do you think that is?

2 Read Daniel 5:18-23. King Bel did not act out of ignorance. He knew how God had humbled his father Neb but still chose to defy God. He didn’t have an ignorance problem; he had an obedience problem (he ignored what he heard). And the truth is, God always warns before He judges. What are some of the warnings God gives that our culture continues to ignore?

3 God always warns before He judges. The problem in Babylon is forgetting that God always judges. One principle of this story is that **God holds us accountable for what we know.** Read Romans 1:18-20. How does this truth shape our understanding of God’s justice and wrath?

4 A WORD TO THE WISE... Babylon will be judged. All empires have expiration dates. Do not interpret slow justice as no justice, but as a gracious display of God’s patience. But even now an angel army is outside the walls waiting on orders. How does this truth shape our affection or attachment to any nation?

5 A WORD TO THE WISE... Truth will be validated. Babylon often treats truth as a relative reality that is constantly in flux. Polls don’t decide truth, and changing values do not define truth. God’s revelation stands regardless of who does or does not accept it. What God calls holy should be handled with care. What are some ways we can honor God’s “holy things” today?

6 A WORD TO THE WISE... Faithfulness will be recognized. Babylon picks the wrong heroes. Just remember that true honor is not determined by kings but by God. Daniel did not switch jerseys. He stayed faithful to his name. Who are some current examples of spiritual heroes who have been faithful to God over the long haul? What are some things we can do today to help us remain faithful over the long haul?

7 Read Romans 8:1. The cross of Jesus is both a message of love and a warning of judgment. How does this story influence our understanding of our own need for salvation, and how we can be confident on the day of judgment?