

## Life Hacks

“Life Hacks for Your Marriage” – Proverbs 18:22  
April 23, 2023

### Our Sermon Series

Life Hacks		
A Study of Divine, Practical Wisdom from the Book of Proverbs		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
April 8-9	Life Hacks	Proverbs 1:1-7
April 16	Life Hacks for Your Relationships	Proverbs 9:8-9; 15:5; 16:27-30
April 23	Life Hacks for Your Marriage	Proverbs 18:22; 19:14; 20:6-7
April 30	Life Hacks for Your Money	Proverbs 3:9-10; 13:11; 14:23; 22:7
May 7	Life Hacks for Your Pride	Proverbs 11:2; 16:18
May 14	Life Hacks for Moms	Proverbs 31:10-31
May 21	Life Hacks for Your Walk with God	Proverbs 1:7; 3:5-6
May 28	Life Hacks for Your Sex Life	Proverbs 5:1-23
June 4	Life Hacks for Your Food Life	Proverbs 23:20-21; 25:16; 28:7
June 11	Life Hacks for Your Work Life	Proverbs 6:6-8; 13:4; 12:24; 21:5
June 18	Life Hacks for Dads	Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:6; 29:17
June 25	Life Hacks for Your Words	Proverbs 12:18; 15:1,4; 18:21

### What is a Life Hack?

- **Life Hack** – A simple or clever tip for accomplishing a familiar task.
- **Proverb** – A short saying stating a general truth or piece of wisdom.
- **Wisdom** (Hebrew: *Khokhmah*) – Applied knowledge, or skill
- **Fear of the Lord** – The beginning or *secret* of wisdom (Prov. 1:7)

### Purpose of the Book of Proverbs

- How to live wisely in God's world.
- To fear God is to submit to Him as the Author of marriage and pursue His way above our own.
- **Important:** These are *Principles*, not *Promises*.

**Tim Keller** – “While marriage is many things, it is anything *but* sentimental. Marriage is glorious but hard. It's a burning joy and strength, yet it is also blood, sweat, and tears, humbling defeats, and exhausting victories.”

### What We Learn About Marriage in the Proverbs:

#### 1 – Marriage is a **Good Gift** from God

**READ:** Proverbs 18:22 + Proverbs 19:14

#### Marriage is a Good Gift

- **Proverbs 5:18** – *Let your fountain be blessed and rejoice in the wife of your youth.*
- **James 1:17** – *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

#### And Marriage is God's Idea

- Genesis 1 – Creation (Good, Good... *Very Good*)
- Genesis 2 – Something *Not Good*. Then marriage is inaugurated.
- Genesis 3 – Sins enters & conflict begins.

#### Marriage Today = Pessimistic Idealism

- **Chris Rock** – “You have two options in life: You can be single and lonely, or married and bored.”
- The Enlightenment: Redefined & privatized marriage
- Marriage moved from a *cornerstone* to a *capstone*.
- **Tim Keller** – “Marriage used to be about *us*, now it's about *me*... And it leaves us desperately trapped between both unrealistic longings for *and* terrible fears about marriage.”

#### Marriage Hack #1 – See marriage as a good gift from God.

- *Married:* I will fight the urge to tear down marriage or my spouse.
- *Unmarried:* I won't buy the lie that marriage is oppressive and antiquated.

#### 2 – But Marriage is a **terrible god**

#### Marriage is a *Good Thing*, but it is not an *Ultimate Thing*

- **Proverbs 18:22** – He who finds a wife finds a *good thing* and obtains favor from the Lord.
- **Elizabeth Elliot** – “Marriage teaches us that even the most intimate human companionship cannot satisfy the deepest places of the heart. Our hearts are lonely, ‘til they rest in Him.”

#### Marriage Hack #2 – Your spouse is a great gift, but a terrible God.

- Where have I idolized my spouse such that I am crushing them?
- Has my spouse ever had a moment where they said: “You love Jesus more than me.”
- Explore opportunities to grow spiritually here at Grace Fellowship.
  - Visit [whatisgrace.org/grow](http://whatisgrace.org/grow).
- Come to National Day of Prayer
  - Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm at Crossroad Church.
  - See [katyprays.org/national-day-of-prayer](http://katyprays.org/national-day-of-prayer).

### 3 – A Great Husband is **Faithful**, Loving, and Self-Controlled.

#### FAITHFUL

- **Proverbs 20:6-7** – *Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find? The righteous who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him!*
- **Faithful** = Loyal and steadfast, given to conviction, true to the core

**Goal:** Loyalty & Leadership

- **Ben Stuart** – "A husband's job is to initiate and sacrifice so that his wife might flourish under God."
- Initiate: *Romance, communication, spiritual leadership, and sacrifice.*
- **John Mark Comer** – "Let the power of my marriage covenant shape me into a man who is increasingly free from my need to get what I want."

#### LOVING

- **Proverbs 15:17** – *Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.*
- **Proverbs 19:22** – *What is desired in a man is steadfast love, and a poor man is better than a liar.*

**Goal:** Intimacy > Winning

#### SELF-CONTROLLED

- **Proverbs 25:28** – *A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.*

**Goal:** See Conflict as an Opportunity for Christlikeness

- Top 5 Conflicts: *In-Laws, Money, Roles, Kids, and Communication*
- **Elizabeth Elliot** – "A man must at times be hard as nails, willing to face up to the truth about himself, and about the woman he loves, refusing compromise when compromise is wrong. But he must also be tender. No weapon will breach the armor of a woman's resentment like tenderness."
- **Oskar Schindler** — "The greatness of a man is the restraining of his power for the good of others."

#### Marriage Hack #3 – With God's Help...

- **Married:** I will be a faithful, loving, self-controlled husband.
- **Unmarried:** I will live as a faithful, loving, self-controlled man as I live fully in God's will each day.

### 4 – A Great Wife is Excellent, Gracious, and **God-Fearing**.

#### EXCELLENT

- **Proverbs 31:10** – *An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.*
- **Proverbs 12:14** – *An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rotteness to his bones.*

**Goal:** Your husband is better because you are his wife.

#### GRACIOUS

- **Proverbs 21:9** – *It is better to live in a corner of a housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.* (Also in Proverbs 25:24)
- **Proverbs 31:23** – *Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.*

**Goal:** Encouragement > Criticism

- **Elizabeth Elliot** – "But you will find yourself disarmed utterly, and your accusing spirit transformed into loving forgiveness the moment you remember that you did, in fact, marry only a sinner, and so did he."

#### GOD-FEARING

- **Proverbs 31:30** – *Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*
- **Proverbs 31:25** – *Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.*

**Goal:** Fearing God is the Antidote to Fearing Bad News

- **Psalms 112:1,7 (NLT)** – *How joyful are those who fear the LORD and delight in obeying his commands... they do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the LORD to care for them.*

#### Marriage Hack #4: With God's Help...

- **Married:** I will be an excellent, gracious, God-fearing wife.
- **Unmarried:** I will live as an excellent, gracious, God-fearing woman as I live fully in God's will each day.

### CONCLUSION: Marriage is a Picture of the **Gospel**

**Ephesians 5:31-32** – *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

The Bible **begins** (Gen. 2:24) and **ends** (Rev. 19:6-10) with a wedding.