

Discussion Questions for *Making Life Work*:

1. How would you define *wisdom*?
2. The book of Proverbs begins with the famous summary statement, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (1:7). What is meant by that?
3. Bill Hybels says one symptom of “sluggardliness” is to put things off till later. In what ways or areas do you tend to procrastinate and why?
4. Regarding work, Colossians 3:23 says: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” What do you think it means to work for the Lord?
5. Proverbs 3:27 says we should not withhold good from those who deserve it. How can we tell if someone deserves help or not?
6. When might helping someone actually do more harm than good?
7. Why is spiritual refreshment such an important part of giving us the energy we need to do good?
8. The author suggests that discipline can be an effective way to build relationships (with God and with others). Yet discipline can seem so cold and calculated. Do you think discipline is an effective way to build a relationship or not? Why or why not?
9. Hybels suggests that “harmless” half-truths, exaggerations or white lies are really not harmless at all and may be just as problematic as big lies. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
10. Do you think you are the kind of person who needs to work more on adding love and grace to your words, or are you the type who needs to put more emphasis on truth telling rather than peacekeeping?
11. Hybels says that there are certain kinds of people we should not make part of our “personal development team.” Do you agree or disagree with this strategy? Why or why not?
12. What are some of the advantages the author mentions in going slow before deciding to marry?
13. Why is spiritual compatibility such an important factor in deciding who to marry and in married life?

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14. The author says that wounds from our background and brokenness can have serious effects on our marriages. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your response.
15. Hybels suggests that marriage is often quite a lot of work. Why do you think this might be so?
16. The author says couples can move beyond stability to joy by building on every possible positive connection between a husband and wife. What good examples of this have you seen in your marriage or other marriages?
17. How does a secure marriage translate into secure children?
18. Hybels writes that children need both love and limits. Why are both needed in combination to be effective?
19. In many places Proverbs suggests that God has a special concern for the poor. Why do you think this is so?
20. Ephesians 4:26 says we can be angry without sinning. What do you think this means?
21. The author says we should look beneath the surface of the immediate event that triggered our anger to identify the underlying issue or attitude that is at the root of our anger. How can this help us deal constructively with anger?
22. What does it mean to trust God?
23. Many steps of faith in God are possible, from a first step, to a reaffirmation of an earlier commitment, to a decision to turn over one area of life to God that you had earlier labeled as “No Trespassing.” What step of faith might God be asking from you now?

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