



STUDY GUIDE

2 Corinthians 8:1-2, 9 (Matt. 19:16-26, Lk. 19:1-10)

“Leaning In and the Grace of God”

Pastor Patrick Bowler

10-15-2023

Consult the Scriptures:

Matthew 19:16-26

Luke 19:1-10

2 Corinthians 8:2-3, 9

(Other Scripture: Matt. 6:21; Php. 2:1-11; John 1:1, 14)

Discuss:

Related to your personal devotional time during Leaning In—

1. Is there anything you might want to share related to your time in prayer this week (see *Prayer Journal* in the *Leaning In* booklet)?
2. Is there anything you might want to share from working through the *Devotional Journal* provided at one of the Vision Dinners (Note: copies can be found in the *Leaning In* booth)?

Related to this week's sermon during Leaning In—

1. In talking about *biblical generosity*, what did Pastor Patrick mean when he said that the journey we are embarking on (i.e., *Leaning In*) is a dangerous one? Why might it be a dangerous journey? What dangers do you foresee?

2. Citing R. Kent Hughes, Pastor Patrick said, "*Money is so entwined with our souls.*"¹ What do you think that means? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not? How does that quote make you feel? Do you resonate with it? What comes up for you when you hear it?
3. Read Matthew 19:16-26 and Luke 19:1-10 and compare the two stories. What are the similarities? What are the differences? What is it about money and possessions that endanger us spiritually? What are some of the spiritual implications?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-2 and discuss. What stands out to you in those two verses? Pastor Patrick identified the following equation in relationship to the Macedonians: **Their *Abundance of joy* + their *extreme poverty* = a *wealth of generosity***. How are we to explain this equation? How does it compare to Zacchaeus' story?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9 and discuss. What does this passage mean and how does it connect to the subject of generosity?
6. Pastor Patrick ended with the following quote, saying it was his aim as he considers his own generosity during *Leaning In*: "***It's easy to surrender a part when we've already given the whole.***"² How does that quote strike you? Where does it challenge you?
7. What immediate applications can be made following this week's sermon? What questions do you still have?

¹ R. Kent Hughes, *Preaching the Word: 2 Corinthians* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2006), p. 159.

² *Ibid.*, p. 158.