

## LeaderImpact Podcast Ep. 5 Enoch Weng

### Lisa Peters

Welcome to the LeaderImpact Podcast. We are a community of leaders dedicated to optimizing our personal, professional, and spiritual lives to have impact. This show is where we have a chance to listen and engage with leaders from around the world who are living this out. We love talking with leaders. So if you have any questions comments or suggestions to make this show even better please let us know the best way to stay connected is through our newsletter at [LeaderImpact.ca](mailto:LeaderImpact.ca) or on social media at [later impact](https://www.instagram.com/leaderimpact) I'm your host Lisa Peters and we welcome to our LeaderImpact Podcast Enoch Weng.

Enoch is the CEO and co-founder of Rise Above Finance which is focused on providing relationship-based financial coaching based upon biblical wisdom to achieve financial transformation. He is a highly sought-after speaker, consultant, and board member for his work in the nonprofit and business world. With his unique background blend of entrepreneurship, finance, and the creative arts Enoch has been pioneering interdisciplinary innovation throughout his career. Enoch is a Simon Fraser University alumni having completed a BBA in finance and is a holder of the responsible investment specialist designation. He is a current director for FaithTech, Muzewest, and Glorious Arts Institute and is a core organizer for Vancouver's Startup Week and LeaderImpact. In his spare time Enoch finds himself bouncing between composing jazz compositions and enjoying anime, yet still finds time to watch Disney movies. Join us now for a conversation with Enoch Weng about living out your calling in your personal, professional, and spiritual life. Welcome to the show, Enoch!

### Enoch Weng

Thanks, Lisa. It's an honor to be here. And oh my goodness. What an intro!

### Lisa Peters

You know, you've been the talk. It's like who should I interview? It's like you got to talk to Enoch Weng he is really cool. Told me a little bit about him like we got to talk. So people are talking about Enoch just so you know?

### Enoch Weng

Oh my goodness. I hope they can't see the video because I'm going red.

### Lisa Peters

So my first question for you because you just said you love Disney, what's your favorite Disney movie?

### Enoch Weng

Oh my goodness I get this all the time. So I used to be known for playing Disney Medleys. And so my copout answer is to say I love all of them. But if I had to choose one would actually be The Tigger Movie. It's not well-known, like the Winnie the Pooh Movie. When I watched it with my family I thought Oh this is going to be a Disney movie. But it delved into the elements of

what a family is. What trust is like? What you do when you feel trust is broken and it all just comes back to the search to what its purpose and meaning and you can find it all in one movie. *(Laughs)*

**Lisa Peters**

*(Laughs)* Good one. Does Cinderella have that kind of meaning?

**Enoch Weng**

Good question! *(Laughs)*

**Lisa Peters**

I don't know we're not going there anyway. So again, you know welcome to the show. We definitely want to talk about you know your personal, professional, spiritual life. So I want you to kick off with you know, tell us a little bit more about yourself and you know let's get to know Enoch.

**Enoch Weng**

Yeah, for sure. Wow! Where do I even start with this? I think I might need you to prompt me a little bit.

**Lisa Peters**

You know I think while I know you talked about you moved here when you were very young. You moved to I think Vancouver but I'm not sure if you moved directly there.

**Enoch Weng**

Yes, yes, so our family moved in the mid-90s. So I was born in Taiwan and Taipei and we moved as a family to Canada to start a new life. And I remember just growing up. I grew up in Langley so it was a community where the school I was at had only 2 Asians in it was me and my brother! So people would joke to say Hey is that other Asian guy your brother? And I would just mention like What are you talking about like that's that stereotyping. And then actually I would say no, but it's actually my brother. So just growing up it was just very interesting. Kind of learning about the Canadian culture and then later on we moved towards Vancouver Burnaby where there were a lot more people of Asian descent. I had almost reverse culture shock because I didn't know about things like bubble tea, anime, and all these different things and so I was kind of in this in this kind of middle culture kid. I don't know if you call a third culture kid. But to really kind of identify. What was my identity who am I so I was kind of marked a large period of my early childhood years trying to figure out who I was.

**Lisa Peters**

Wow. I got caught on bubble tea because I just figured that out about a month ago. Wow, it's really good.

**Enoch Weng**

Oh yes, you have discovered the joys of life. Yeah, so this is the thing I used to do a lot of coffee

chats. But then caffeine gets me really jittery So I'm actually now known for my bubble tea finance chats. It's a hashtag theme with my millennial clients.

**Lisa Peters**

That's funny. So you continued on elementary school throughout and university in the area. SFU grad.

**Enoch Weng**

Yes, yes. Exactly so yeah so I went to SFU. It was just up on the mountain nearby in Burnaby. And yeah I've just been living and working in Vancouver ever since.

**Lisa Peters**

All right? So, when you graduated SFU. When you were done high school, were you like I am ready for university. I know what I want to be. This is great I'm going to be a financial planner. A Biblical financial planner.

**Enoch Weng**

*(Laughs)* Oh my goodness you know Lisa no not at all! Well, first I had no intention to do business at all to go into finance. So to kind of give you some context. I wanted to do music and the reason why I was was because my entire family they're all artists or musicians. So my dad runs an art school here in Vancouver. My mom is there. My sister's an industrial designer. My brother is an artist. And if you look at my extended family one of them runs one of the museums here. Another is a Ph.D. in music and another one runs our digital agency. So and then I can go on and on about all my relatives that are in the arts.

And so for me, I was a jazz pianist. I did a lot of wedding gigs and banquets and I thought you know what I'm going to be a world-class musician. And as I was applying for music schools around the world. I ended up getting accepted into a business school or a few business schools because I was just kind of applying on a whim. And then with my Asian parents are like Hey why don't you consider business school because you're probably gonna be the only one in our family to do that.

And I kind of just signed up out of curiosity. I joined in. But then honestly my first few years I actually didn't enjoy school at all. I loved making friends, learning about business but I was just surrounded by people that were just very, how do I describe it, kind of felt like snakes. You know like I was here to make friends but they were here to make connections. And here they're giving me their business cards and then I'm just like You're a first-year why would you need a business card? So I was very confused at this whole new world and I honestly felt a little bit kind of out of place. But I think for me the biggest change in all of this was in my third year. So I was getting ready for my finals. I was in a library studying when I got a call from my mom. And I picked up the phone and I said hey mom like what's going on? And I just heard her panicked voice say, Hey Enoch you need to come to the hospital right now. It's an emergency. And I just didn't know what to think. So I just immediately just packed my bags, left the door and it was just excruciating pain just waiting for the buses to come. And finally at the hospital running through the hallway and then I open a door and there I see my little brother Luke lying on a hospital bed. Tubes and he's just yeah, just knocked out and the doctor says that

Hey your brother Luke has been diagnosed with brain cancer. We need to operate now. We need to figure it out. And this is it. And I was just yeah I was just in shock I didn't expect this. I mean none of us expected it to happen because we don't have cancer in a family and within kind of just the next few weeks it was just you know biopsies. Get ready for radiation, chemo and honestly, at that time I ended up failing two semesters in a row and then I dropped out of school.

Yeah, and it was just a very emotional time where because you know the term starving artist might have been a phrase but we kind of lived through that. Now we didn't really have that financial education. Nobody really taught us about savings and you know the right insurance. In fact, we actually bought the wrong insurance because you know we have met with sales advisors or sales representatives, not actual advisors. So I couldn't really afford to go back to school actually as well that was part of the reason. And it was just kind of for me the turning point was that I was asking myself Why am I working so hard and going to school figuring this out when my brother is dying in a hospital?

And I remember there was this one moment, it was when they were doing the biopsy. But after a finished procedure. Something went wrong and my brother ended up having a seizure and was in a coma. And I remember the doctor saying Either he recovers and wakes up in the next week or that's it. And I honestly had just lost hope at the time. I was questioning. You know if God is love and God is out there and then why is this happening to our family? We've been so faithful. Why now why? Why here? And remember my dad just bringing us to a living room and he and he got us to just go on our knees and say we're going to pray for this and regardless of whatever happens God is still in control. And remember at the point we just prayed for hours together as a family. And then in the next few days. It was just miraculous but my brother woke up. And then in a week since he recovered to I think 85 to 90 percent and then the doctors were saying that this is a miracle like this is not something that should have happened.

**Lisa Peters**

Wow wow.

**Enoch Weng**

Yeah, it was just an amazing scene seeing that moment, and what should have torn our family apart actually brought us all so close together. And you know to this day we've never been closer and I have to thank God for being just the center cornerstone of our life.

**Lisa Peters**

Wow! Wow! What a story! You know I'm glad to hear your brother came out of it woke up and coming closer to God. What a great story and praise. Thank you for sharing. I know you're gonna go back to your brother a little later but, you had quit school I mean I get it. You had to take care of your family. Everyone needs you. Did you go back to school? Did you go back to that class? Did you finish?

**Enoch Weng**

I did actually about a year after. I decided to go back. I had a renewed kind of sense of spirit

because I had seen just the church community. The friends and family around us rally together in the importance of having a support network and being true to yourself. And a reason why I went back was because during this time. Nobody really knew what we were going through as a family. I think most people thought I was still in school because I was still participating in clubs and involved in initiatives but I was honestly embarrassed. I didn't want to show weakness. I didn't want people to know what I was going through and when I finally did open up to my close friends, instead of being judged and looked down upon as I thought, they rallied like for me, you know they brought us together. You know some of them would come to take me out. Some of them would just help me. You know, plan out the rest of my university life and so when I went back my goal really was to say How do I help the people around me and to just break down the stigmas of mental health of having to put a facade of excellence when really all of us are hurting. We're all striving and yearning for something. And so I went back with that kind of vision. And yeah in the next years after that God just opened up these doors where I was able to step into moments of leadership. I was leading student clubs and eventually became president of the student society where I was able to just share the love with the people around me and so that's kind of what rekindled that fire.

### **Lisa Peters**

It's amazing the things that happen in your life that push you forward or pulls you forward and or you think it's a blow to you and it's a hit and you know, but you grew so much from that and I hate that it's an incident like that. But you know listening to you is such a great story. So I know you graduated because you're a financial planner but I want you to tell us a little bit more now about your professional journey. I'm not sure that's the first thing you did when you graduated. How did you become Christian Financial Planner? What was your journey to get there?

### **Enoch Weng**

Oh for sure, it's a wild ride. So buckle your seatbelt here we go! So when I graduated I graduated with a finance degree and I had done my financial internships when I was looking at corporate. And so I thought you know as any business graduate finance graduate I'm going to climb a corporate ladder for success. Because that's my idea of winning in life. You know to make as much money as I can and to be in a position where people can admire me. And as I was kind of working in that area I just felt so lost. You know I just started asking myself You know what am I doing? I'm just making the rich more rich. And for me as a Christian, I just didn't know what the heck my work had to do with my faith. I would serve at church on a worship team and I would just do my business. Do my networking. And I just felt meaningless like I was a cog in the machine. And so I decided to leave actually and I jumped into nonprofit because I thought Hey surely I can do so much good that's directly impacted or I can see a direct impact in nonprofit. And a nonprofit I loved the work. I love people but I just hated how everyone was underpaid. There is never any money. And all these organizations are working so hard to, to fundraise to deal with donor advising and you know I was in charge of one of the big kind of national grants and what happened at the end of the day was when governments change when you know partnerships changed boom this funding disappears. And I saw good organizations go down.

And I know Lisa you've been involved with this. You know and a lot of listeners can appreciate when I say but it's just very hard to be in a nonprofit world. And going through that I thought to myself You know what I'm going to change again. I'm trying to think to myself You know what can I do to make as much money as I can to support all these causes. And so being in Vancouver I jump into tech. I joined a tech accelerator where I'm part of the team and I got really involved in the tech scene. And I'm here looking at some of the different positions being opened. And there was this senior management role coming out, an exec role, and I thought to myself, Hey here we go six-figure pay. I'm hanging out with CEOs every day. I'm living the life. And this is the exact moment where I started to feel God tug on my heart and speak. I don't know if you know what I'm talking about that feeling. But when you know God tugs at your heart.

### **Lisa Peters**

I want you to stop there, like that tug at your heart. What were you feeling? Like I get it in my gut. It's like something happening and I know exactly. But for our listeners, what did you feel? Like a tug at your heart?

### **Enoch Weng**

Yes, oh a hundred percent. That's exactly the feeling, the words you know there's something that's something's wrong. Something's off. And for me, I experience God through my personal meditations but also through the people around me. And as I was hearing my people talking around me. They would say things like Hey have you thought about your future? And then they would say comments like Hey I think you would do really good in this area or Hey do you know what does God ask you to do? And I would have verses pop up repeatedly and in that case, what was the big kind of moment for me was when I had the kind of thought that Hey I shouldn't be here. Or you know you need to pray to God.

And so I was in my prayer talking to and I said Hey you know what do you want to do with me? Like what's up essentially. And I was really scared because I'm like you know every time God tugs at my heart something big is going to happen. And in that moment I heard God say Hey you need to leave. Like you need to go. And I thought oh okay, go where? And radio silence! And I'm thinking to myself Okay is this actually God because this is crazy. You're asking me to leave this tech world. All these things I've worked so freaking hard to get. To go somewhere where there's no backup plan. And you know I'm a planner by nature. I like to plan my things out, to be structured. And I thought okay what now. So I go to my dad. And I'm like okay dad you're a very traditional Asian man I'm about to leave my big tech kind of role, six-figure all that stuff to go to do nothing to sit on it. No benefits, no backup plan. What do you think? And he says Of course you're crazy. Why would you do that? And I said because God told me. And he said Oh if God's telling you then do it. And I thought OH NO! I forgot you're a very spiritual guy too. And that was about what four or five years ago and I just walked away. Just walked away from it all and I wish I could tell you that it was just an instant door opening.

**Lisa Peters**

When you walked away, was it like elation or was it, because mine when I walked away, it was like vomit like what have I done? What have I done?!

**Enoch Weng**

Yeah oh gosh yeah.

**Lisa Peters**

When you walked away was it La La La (*singing*) or was it Oh gosh.

**Enoch Weng**

It was not a Disney movie moment as people might imagine. There are no rainbows, butterflies. There is no you know cue the music. Honestly, it was just a very fearful moment for me. But let me backtrack a little bit. I was very scared and I was just very confused but I had peace. And I think that's the one thing I permuted. It's since having Jesus come into my life like every moment whether it was my brother going to cancer, all my kind of different shifts of life, I've always had peace. I always knew I am in God's hands like no matter what happens that life throws at me I'm good.

But I still have the human emotions of just fear and trepidation. I was just you know wondering about what's going on. And you know at this moment it wasn't you know 1 or 2 months it was like almost half a year where I'm watching my bank account drip down. All my friends and colleagues are getting married, having kids, flying around the world. And of course, they're asking me saying Hey Enoch you're always doing some cool thing. What are you doing now all I could say was I'm waiting on the Lord whatever that means.

**Lisa Peters**

Yeah, I feel like we live the same story. So yeah I can feel it with you because sometimes I'm still waiting but I'm happy. Like I'm good like I know it's coming. So you said I remember when we met a couple of weeks ago, just quickly met you, you talked about becoming the Christian financial advisor and I get the financial advisor, but I don't get the Christian financial advisor because my mind goes to ethical funds. Because that's all I can think of. So I know if you want to talk a little bit like what is a Christian financial planner?

**Enoch Weng**

Yeah, for sure I love to unpack that. So when I grew up I didn't know it was a thing either. You know I was in the finance world and I was thinking about was finance is scummy. It's all about just making profits, the bottom line. And of course, I know some good people in it. But you know that was my extent. And so after those six months of kind of just wondering, I decided to take on a position at a financial services firm. And it was funny because I was talking to a different number of hire managers at that time. Was looking at you know equity management, private wealth. I was looking at consulting. And then financial services honesty was the last thing I wanted to do because people kind of call themselves financial advisors have screwed our family over and I just had a really bad kind of view of that.

But I met the hiring manager who was the only Christian I had talked to and I said you know what you seem pretty good like a lot of people are vouching for you. So I'm gonna join but hey the moment I detect something sketchy and what you guys are doing I'm calling you out and at least you're gonna be able to pay me to get all these certifications. So I can call you out so I was very jaded and bitter. And then she said to me Hey that's why I want you on my team. And I'm like okay challenge accepted and so I joined.

And after a month I was talking to some of the people at the team meeting and we're asking Why are you here? And one of the senior advisors puts his hand up and says, and his name's Ivan, he says I'm here to reconcile my Christian faith in my work. And I just thought wait, hold up. That's my prayer. That's why I'm here. Who is this guy? And so I get to chat with him. It turns out he was actually one of the managers when I was doing my first financial internship you know 4 or 5 years before that time. And so it was really cool to reconnect with him and he said Hey Enoch, my calling is to teach biblical finance. And I thought What!? What are you talking about? And he says well Enoch there are over 2300 verses in the Bible that speak about finance and money and management. And then do you know that Jesus speaks about money more than anything he talks about over 700 times he speaks about it. And I'm sitting here thinking Oh okay, sure, yeah, I know the story of the talents. I know that stuff. But what are you talking about? And over the next year, he just walks me through it. We go have Bible studies together and we just go deeply ingrained in this. And I just thought oh my goodness, there's so much that the Bible is teaching about finance, Why don't we ever talk about it. You know the church doesn't want to talk about it. It's taboo for us to even think about it. And he says Enoch if we're not talking about it as Christians but then the world is, we're gonna be adopting the worldview about my finance, not the stewardship mindset that God has intended for us to do. And then he asked me he says Hey do you want to partner with me? And it actually took me a whole year to trust him because at the time you know I've heard of people misusing you know the Bible for profit, for gain. So I'm like I don't trust you man.

But after a year of just seeing him teach it. And I remember the first moment we sat down in a meeting together he opens in prayer. And I said Hold up we're in a corporate-like office. Can we pray? And he's like why not? And then he brings up Bible verses. I'm like wait Why are you bringing Bible verses when we're doing a consulting meeting? He's like because we're going to go through them. And I was just blown away by just being able to integrate our faith into the work. And yeah, when we talk about Christian financial advising and planning it is really just going down to the core of, what is stewardship? Do you know what are the biblical frameworks and principles that are found in the Bible out of transcendence? And the crazy part is there are a lot of best practices today that we use that can be derived from the Bible. Everything from emergency savings fund. You know when you look into the story of Joseph you know to set aside a harvest in preparation for the famine. You know we think about diversification which is found in Ecclesiastes you know but spread your portions 7 or 8 so that you know you don't fail. And there's all this so good knowing that's in there. And I think that's kind of weird what it is just helping people walk through what these are. So I'm and I'm just scratching the surface here but it's just it was a world I didn't know about until I discovered it.



**Lisa Peters**

Yeah, yeah, so I mean when I think of, and I have to admit and it's funny because I have to admit, my financial planner, I don't know if she's a Christian. I know that other people in my life that I've put there are Christian. My business coach. So I specifically chose those people. But my financial coach has never, we've never talked about this. She's never brought out a Bible. You are a financial planner, Christian Financial Planner. You're still investing people's money. So is it any different in investing, like as Christians, do I have to consider how I'm investing my money? You know do I have to kind of step back and go Is that Christian? So I need you to explain that because I'm sure you have 2 different types of clients. I'm sure not everybody's a Christian or maybe they are?

**Enoch Weng**

Yeah oh for sure. Yeah, no for sure I'd love to answer your question, and to answer your question I'm going to ask a question of my own! *(laughs)* You know that's the advisor toolkit.

**Lisa Peters**

Wait a minute... *(laughs)*

**Enoch Weng**

So the question I'm asking is imagine this. Imagine you're the financial VP the CFO of your life. If the CEO were to audit you and to look into a bank account look to see how you're spending your money, what would they say about you? Would he fire you or promote you, right? And so I asked that as a reflection. And at the end of a day to say well If we're to be held accountable and responsible and of course, most people say yes of course responsibility and accountability. But then we ask the question of accountability to whom? That CEO for us it's God. And God is the one that's entrusted us with things of this earth.

And so another question I asked people was Who owns this? Who owns what you have? You know your salary, your income, your assets. And if your answer is That God owns it. And that changes everything because that is what it means to be a steward. To look at what you own and the things God's blessed you with and to say hey how do they use it as a faithful manager for the glory of God to impact the world as we're called to. And to have a long-term, eternity perspective and not a short-term personal perspective. And so there's a lot to go with it. For example, about a third of our clients are non-Christians but we still are able to teach Bible principles because these are transcendent and above all. And to go back to the question of your asking, Do I have to be mindful of my investments. And then my question to the people, It's what is the best rate of return you can have? And for me, this is kind of where I talk about the concept of the ultimate currency exchange. I say what happens if you can trade your dollars to win souls. Because we're called by the great commission to make disciples of the nations and to bring them closer to Jesus. So what's the best thing to do? In all of the top practices we talk about for me, my rate of return is how many souls I can win. Because I ask people at the end of a day when you're standing in heaven, face to face with the Lord, is he going to ask you how much money have you made? Or is he going to ask you what have you done for me? How many souls have you won, right? And so that was my convicting moment for my life and I was like oh my goodness that's crazy.

**Lisa Peters**

Oh. Wow.

**Enoch Weng**

Yeah, that was a lot. *(Laughs)*

**Lisa Peters**

We talked a little bit about, because I didn't again didn't know much about Christian Financial planner, and you talked about companies that you invest in based on my personal values. You know and you said that's really important you know, negative and positive screening and I want you to just sort of tell us a little bit more about how you align companies with your personal life because you talked a little bit about that.

**Enoch Weng**

Yes, oh for sure. So one of the things that people come to me and say like Hey you know I want to make a lot of money, buy a house, have you know x amount of return. And so I always say well why? What is the core purpose of what you get in that? You know when people think a million-dollar they are not thinking about the money itself. They're thinking about What they can buy, who they can buy for, a lifestyle, all these different things. And so I have to take a step back and say Hey, what's the purpose here? And so we talk about having purpose-driven goals. You know what are the goals that the Lord called you to, whether it's fulfilling your calling, whether it's taking care of your family. What are different things? And so we map that out first. And then we work back to say Okay, what are the different investments and tools that you can do to get you there. So investing isn't the end goal. Investing and making money and all these different things it's a tool. Money's a tool to get you to the places or to see the impact you want to make on the world.

And so when we look at our investments we look at where we align our money to, you have to ask a question, are they in alignment with their core values? And what are those core values we're looking for? And so when it comes to responsible investing or biblically responsible investing, there are a lot of different approaches to it. The standard one is what you just talked about screening. Where negative screening is to say okay What is the criteria light I want to base on so that I have to X out companies that don't align with my beliefs or values. So for example, with a lot of responsible funds, they don't invest in companies that deal with tobacco, pornography, waste pollution, warfare armor, you know guns and stuff and so it's kind of the negative screen saying Okay I don't subscribe to that. And in positive screening or let's say ESG is a consideration which stands for Environment Social Governance tries to invest in companies or organizations that are promoting or really trying to live out those values whether it's about social justice, environmentalism, having let's say like a balanced equitable leadership team. And going further it's asking Well you know what are the things that God calls us to do? How do we find the ROIs that aren't let's say just about pure profits but about, let's say help the widows, clothing the homeless, to let's say spread the gospel in advance of his kingdom. And so it's really just having those conversations and being intentional about how you're aligning all aspects of your life. And I know this is just investing portion. But really, it's more than just investing. It's how you invest in your life, your time, your treasures, your talent right? The 3 T's. And so investing is a core component and that's

something when we do our financial planning and take them on this trip, this journey we really look at that and help them to discover and align themselves. But the bigger question and bigger conversation are really Is your life in alignment? And when we look at it I always ask them What's the story you're telling me? What's the narrative here? Then I look at their finances and it's like okay, it's telling me a different story. There is a dissonance here. Why? How do you reconcile this? *(laughs)* And so it's a very fluffy kind of quality, qualitative kind of conversation. But we're able to then qualify it afterward and put numbers around it.

**Lisa Peters**

Okay, so you had said you made a comment about you're not just a financial planner. I think you said that. So you're sort of a multi-service organization?

**Enoch Weng**

Yes, so we've developed our holistic model where we've incorporated elements of coaching, mentorship, counseling, and yeah, where we're really able to just take people through the journey because it goes deep. And you know money can be such an emotional theme people have to unwrap. And so instead of just being a transactional relationship we really look at the relational side and that's kind of where we go deep.

**Lisa Peters**

You know I never as a Christian, I never thought of how I invest reflects on me and I think I just went I need to retire and that's so much money I need to make and but I never I guess I just trusted people.

**Enoch Weng**

You know there's nothing wrong with that because you know we're not taught this. You know financial literacy is at an all-time low in the world and maybe a verse I can help is Matthew 6:21 so that's a very common verse thrown out. But it says where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. And when we look at it and I'd always tell people it's like hey show me your bank account and I could show you where your priorities are. I can show you where the flow of money is going as a reflection of what's important to you. And it's not bad it's just a reflection of your priorities. But, when it comes to being a Christian and to really enjoy true stewardship, like there's just man, for me what I tell people is at the end of the day all I want to hear is the words Well done, good and faithful servant. I want Jesus to be proud of all the things I've done and for me, finance is such a huge part of it. What can we do to enjoy that? And so that's kind of some of the things that we get to talk about

**Lisa Peters**

So I feel like we could sum up your professional like I think you're following your calling. Would you say that?

**Enoch Weng**

*(Laughs)* Yes, yes, you can definitely say that now.

**Lisa Peters**

*(Laughs)* That's good. So just moving on to a little bit of you know your spiritual journey just

you know. Are you someone that grew up in church? You've been surrounded by this all your life and you know the happy Go lucky guy.

**Enoch Weng**

Yeah, I like the word you use, happy-go-lucky. Definitely, I was seemingly the happy-go-lucky guy growing up. I grew up in a church you know I served there. But in high school, I really struggled and this is a hard part for me but I struggled with mental health. I was filled with anxiety and depression. And I yeah was struggling with suicidal thoughts and there were a few attempts. And at the same time, nobody knew. At school, I was a popular class clown. You know, student society all that stuff. But inside I just hated myself. There were a lot of things that happened to her family and I just didn't see hope. And it was around a time when my mom signed me up for some church camp. And I thought, Okay I'm going to some stupid church camp. This is the embarrassing part but I went to the info session and I thought oh my goodness There are some really cute girls here. *(laughs)* So I thought I'm going to sign up to get to talk to them. Oh my goodness.

**Lisa Peters**

That's the truth!

**Enoch Weng**

Yeah, that's you know this is the raw candid side.

**Lisa Peters**

You were a teenager!

**Enoch Weng**

Exactly. I was a teenager hormones are raging. So I go in there and the funny thing is when I get to the group I didn't even end up talking to them because it got a place in this group of people that were a lot of international students. And so I'm in this group you know everybody's talking different languages and I'm just thinking to myself Wow like you know this is going to be a bit of a bummer like I can't really connect to these people. But over the weekend, these people became my best friends. As we shared about our lives they opened up and I'm like Wow you all are going through some really dark things. How can you just go and enjoy your life and laugh? I'm like you guys have peace in your life. I want that, I want a piece of peace you know.

And so I get to talk to them and they said well it's because we have a relationship with Jesus and I'm like, What does that mean? Because I grew up in a church but didn't connect to me and as we were learning about it I remember we were doing worship and as one song comes up and I just remember thinking Wow this is such a cheesy song. And then I just started crying. Lisa this is so embarrassing but I was just bawling my eyes and I'm thinking Wow people are laughing. I turn around and then half the people are crying too. And I'm like Okay this isn't so bad. And at the moment like I just felt like a burden, a weight lifted as I kind of just said Hey God, like Jesus, I need you my life. And then yeah I just had this sense of peace. And coming

back from it actually it was funny. My life actually got worse. You know over the years. Right, of course that's how you use it goes.

**Lisa Peters**

That's how you know why that happens to you, right?

**Enoch Weng**

100 percent we know right? It was a spiritual attack and Satan's just like Yo like I lost the guy I'm getting back hundred percent, right?

**Lisa Peters**

Yeah, I want you back.

**Enoch Weng**

And then I was just going through a lot of that but I had peace. And you know since that time, all until now, I've never been back into that dark place. Sure you know I have moments of mental down turns. Sure I have moments where you know things don't go the way you want them. But I've just always had this peace and I've always been able to just go forward knowing I have this foundation in my life.

**Lisa Peters**

Wow, I feel that! I know exactly what you're talking about. Your story I feel like reflects mine. The high school and the depression and I was always the popular, the athlete, the whatever. The whatever. And when I became a follower of Jesus I've never gone back to that dark spot. Things get, you know, things get crappy but there's always light. There's always light. So I get that.

**Enoch Weng**

Yes, yes, there is amen to that sister. *(Laughs)*

**Lisa Peters**

*(Laughs)* So thank you. Amen. So thank you for sharing that because it's a good point. So anything more to share there or can I ask you about LeaderImpact. Can we move on to that?

**Enoch Weng**

Yeah, maybe one last kind of just thing to share about that. Yeah, so I think we talked a lot about the faith journey, about biblical finance, about kind of Jesus and know that and I think I just wanted to give a word of encouragement to the people listening where you know, no matter where you're at whether you're you know high net worth killing in life, whether you're broken you can't just find a way out of your debt like there is hope for you. And I think no matter if you have a lot of money or there's not a lot of money, we're all called to be stewards. And so my kind of challenge for people, and my heart for people, is to really just examine where you're at and just to see how can you really just take steps towards becoming a steward God's called you to. And not out of fear and obligation but out of joy. Because I can truly say to you with the hundreds and hundreds of people we've worked with, we've seen such transformation where you know people gone out of debt or people that are being faithful

stewards and investing in all the right places and they just have so much joy, you know. To be able to participate in all of this and I think that's why I wanted to leave to people to say Hey you know what, I want them to see what's the joy of just being able to make Jesus proud and to know that you're fulfilling your calling. And for me at the end of the day, we do help people with your finances right you know, budgeting and saving insurance invest all that stuff. But the purpose is just to free you from worrying about money and finances so you can be free to fulfill and pursue your own calling, the calling that God's call on you. So that's kind of like my last kind of piece on that.

**Lisa Peters**

Wow. See my financial planner doesn't talk to me like this. Oh, Enoch, you're amazing. So the reason when I first heard all about Enoch was your involvement in LeaderImpact. So I'm going to step back and say when did you become involved in LeaderImpact or how did you get involved?

**Enoch Weng**

So this happened right kind of around when I first joined the firm I was at, about four or 5 years ago. And what happened was when I was praying about, well God reconcile my faith in my work, I didn't know that faith-place ministry was a thing. And then almost instantly God opened up all these doors where I got involved with all these organizations right? You know FaithTech, Bam Mission Central, LeaderImpact, and now all these doors are opening. So the story behind LeaderImpact was I was involved with their parent organization Power to Change/Campus Crusade/Cru in my university years that talked about LeaderImpact which was Hey it's like you know Power to Change or campus ministry but for people in the workplace. And I thought Wow How do I get connected? But nobody knew. And one day Ivan my business partner was going to a meeting. He's like Hey you want to join me for lunch with these people? I'm like, great like what is it? He's like oh it's a LeaderImpact meeting. I'm like Wait! What!? How are you involved? He's like oh I'm one of the leaders. I host a group. I'm like are you kidding me?! I was just talking about this last week. And so I, yeah and that's how I got involved with it. It was a God thing.

**Lisa Peters**

I love that! Yeah, just these people get placed in your life isn't it crazy. It's like what? Yeah okay, continue on.

**Enoch Weng**

Yes, it's so crazy. Yeah, so that was my involvement in the beginning. And as I kind of got through it, it was really cool in that there were very high-level people. In there the conversations were so great. But honestly, the average age was you know 50 and above were people they're talking about retirement, exit plans, to kids and grandkids. And I'm here thinking I'm in my mid to late 20s. I'm just talking about figuring out my work, career, and identity. There was a little bit of a hardship where I had good mentorship from them. But my business partner him now being 40, was one of the younger ones. So like right now I'm 29 so what does that mean for me?

**Lisa Peters**

Right. And I was just going to say because for anyone listening, there are groups of all ages. I have a group and it's young, not young. But it's you know women who are growing in their leadership roles. So I think probably there are probably more groups in your area, you just found this one that is a little older and there.

**Enoch Weng**

Yes, oh for sure! Yes, yes, we need to give the context. Yes, so LeaderImpact groups, they are for all ages. All walks of life. All levels of leadership and of course you know there are the younger ones, and not so young ones. My group happened to be a not-so-young one. And at that time it was hard to find people that are around my age which was the 20 to 30s. And what happened was, and we had talked about this last time, like how did LeaderImpact NEXT come about? And what was that? And so LeaderImpact NEXT is a movement to really help young professionals. You know those in the early 20s, early 30s, late 30s. To say, you know, how do we band together and talk about some of the challenges and issues that we face, collectively but also encourage and empower each other because we share kind of that walk of life.

And so what happened was one of my friends Vitali, was with me in that group and he's actually younger than me too. So I think he was early to mid-twenties at a time, and we sat down with Russ, who is a regional director, and he challenged us saying Hey what would it look like for you two to start a group and to start this because we want to have a movement. And we thought to him, there's no way. Like who are we don't have any credentials? What can we do? And then we pray over and we thought Okay let's do it. And so we had a kickoff, a meeting, invited some people and you know from two we became five became ten and then now we're at what over fifty-sixty people that are active in groups over 4 or 5 groups in our city. And it's still growing. Yeah, and it's just it's amazing to see how God works in just the past few years. We've seen just dozens and dozens of people join these groups and people are hungry.

**Lisa Peters**

Yeah, do you feel it's almost this transition because you were involved in Cru, Campus Crusade in Simon Fraser I'm assuming, and then LeaderImpact so there was kind of space in between the 20 to 30s who, so I love NEXT? Are there groups across Canada or do you know? Can you give us a little bit of that?

**Enoch Weng**

Yeah, right now. It's still growing. I know right now in Vancouver, we're kind of have been a pilot in a lot of different things. Around the world, there are kind of different NEXT groups popping up. And so right now I think for people that are kind of wondering Hey what is NEXT? How to get involved. Definitely check out the website I know you'll supply them links and stuff in your podcast. Right now because we're doing it with the COVID situation so a lot of groups are meeting online. Like I'm sure the Vancouver groups are open to having people kind of join in or even just to help those in different cities where there are not groups to start one and to kind of grow from there. Because you know we had to start somewhere but there are resources and people there to help guide around that.

**Lisa Peters**

Yeah and I think you're right about the online. I've moved on to start a new group because that's what we're supposed to do as leaders and we've got women from all over my province. Because it's online and there's only one person in Estevan and one person you know in this small town and they can now join our online group. So we might actually continue it because it's such a great opportunity. You know? So I know that I believe you have stepped away from LeaderImpact. I think you were leading and you sort of stepped away trying to give us a little update on that.

**Enoch Weng**

Yeah, for sure. So when Vitali and I kicked off and then we were starting to kind of grow the movement and then we split off to start our own groups to really multiply and that. There was a time when I was involved with a lot of organizations but last year I was kind of praying and I was experiencing a big burnout. You know COVID happened and there was just so much going on in my life that yeah I needed to step back from things. And so I was hearing God call me into an area of rest, into Sabbath. And so yeah, we did our transition plans and I was able to transition out of all our organizations I was with LeaderImpact, Vtech, etc. And this year was I was able to have the renewed sense to really grow, rise above because we're you know launching our course, stewardship course. Launching a potential podcast or launching kind of our resources or books and stuff and so there was a lot going on. And also helping take care of the family with my brother and all. And so it was a moment where I'm like wow God really is coming up because if I hadn't stepped down and passed it on then I would have been more printed out and just at the end of my rope but because we had succession planning in place and God brought up these leaders. It's not just me and Vitali. We both stepped down. But now there are eight or nine different leaders stepping up and they're just doing much more than what we could have done and so it's amazing seeing a next-generation step up and step out.

**Lisa Peters**

Yeah, yeah, good. And how is your personal life? How's everything going there just you know how are you doing you stepped out you know or you stepped away because of COVID stress. How are you doing today?

**Enoch Weng**

Yeah, yeah, thank you for that. I'm doing so good. And yeah, thanks for asking that Lisa. I think right now it's kind of just trusting in God because you know it hasn't been easy navigating business through COVID and you know I'm helping take care of the family. Their family business and my brother who's going through different cancer this time. And it's just you know there are times where I wake up and it's just hard to get through the day where you know I pray to God and say Hey like help me because I just am so dry or so burnt out you know, even financially sometimes it's just hard current economy. But you know God every step of the way has given us encouragement and yeah, just to know that there are people around us that believe in what we do and you know I get these affirmations from clients all the time saying Hey thank you for just helping us through this, or You know we've reached this different life stage and you know we're so thankful. And I'm like That's what keeps me going. You know to know why, what you're doing in your life, your purpose, your meaning, and



alignment to your call. And so for me, low-life does get very hard. We just keep going forward and we smile because yeah, we know God's in control.

**Lisa Peters**

Let go, let God.

**Enoch Weng**

Let go let God! Let's go! *(Laughs)* That's the mantra. Yes.

**Lisa Peters**

I'm with you. I love that! I got 2 questions left for you. It could get difficult. LeaderImpact is about your impact through your leadership. We know that. Have you considered what your faith legacy will be when you leave this world?

**Enoch Weng**

Yes, I've actually been praying about this all the time. Because our big vision, the vision I want to see, is I want to see a culture of stewardship in every household. And part of the way to do that is to equip faithful stewards and put Jesus at the center of every financial decision. Because the truth be told, you know we pray to God about stuff. We consult him with a lot of things. But when was the last time we really asked him about how we spend our money. And you know it's one of those things because I was guilty of that you know. I would spend money like no tomorrow. I would you know do whatever I wanted. And I would never think like you know God like where are you in all this? And that's kind of my legacy I want to be able to leave is to see people transform by being good stewards. And you know part of that is also to eliminate poverty in a world and through education, through given resources. And if all of us can rally together to help with them, we can just knock off all the UN sustainability development goals. You know tick, tick, tick. And just to play our part in it. So that's kind of the big things I don't even know how we're gonna accomplish it. But you know that's what we're aiming to do!

**Lisa Peters**

Just believe oh that's great Enoch.

**Enoch Weng**

100 percent!

**Lisa Peters**

So I always ask my last question of my guests, What brings you the greatest joy?

**Enoch Weng**

Oh my goodness. For me, the greatest joy is when I'm sitting with someone and they just tell me of just how much closer they got to Jesus. And I see that in some of my clients and with a lot of my friends and I think what's amazing is, when I just see people that have been gripped by fear or by just confusion, whether it's like we talked about earlier, getting out trying to get out of debt. Just not knowing the kind of their career involvement. The future. How to take care of their families. Figuring out estate planning. There's just so much going on in life for

people to be able to come and say Hey you know we've given it to Lord. You know we've transformed. Like they're bigger givers. You know they're more involved in a church. They're actively pursuing their calling. And for me, that's so great when I know that Hey I made an impact on someone's life. And to know that they're now going to go and make an impact on more lives and that's the discipleship mentality, right? You 1 to 12, 12 to 140, and then you multiply that's what brings me joy.

**Lisa Peters**

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Make an impact. Make a difference.

**Enoch Weng**

Yes, exactly!

**Lisa Peters**

Oh, Enoch you know I want to thank you for taking these last like over forty-five minutes to share with us your story, everything about yourself. Your professional life, your spiritual. I just we was meant to talk. Our stories are similar. I can spend so much time with you but I just want to thank you. I find myself so happy to surround myself with people like you and I think you were just dropped into my life for that reason just to continue on my own journey. And I think to everyone who's listening we all have a journey and to have you share, where it just brings joy to my heart. So thank you, Enoch. Thank you.

**Enoch Weng**

Thank you, Lisa. Oh, thank you. Like when I heard you reach out I was like oh my goodness like I'm not ready. I'm not worthy. To be on this podcast but just hearing you and you also have an incredible story of your own that you know resonates with me too. So I've just...Yeah, it's been such a blessing and honor to be here, and thank you just for this wonderful conversation. Let go let God yes and let's go.

**Lisa Peters**

Let go, let God!

**Enoch Weng**

Let go, let God! Yes! And let's go!

**Lisa Peters**

All right! Well, LeaderImpact is a global movement dedicated to leaders having a lasting impact and we believe that true impact occurs when your personal, professional, and spiritual life is fully engaged. We have a network in over 350 cities from around the globe. We host live and virtual events throughout the year and have a growing network of peer groups that meet weekly across these cities. Our podcast is just one of the ways to help you accelerate your growth as a leader. We hope you enjoyed meeting Enoch Weng and you can find him at [riseabovefinance.com](http://riseabovefinance.com). If you're part of LeaderImpact, you can always discuss or share this wisdom with your group. And if you are not yet in a LeaderImpact group, we would love to have you. So check out the groups available in your area at [leaderimpact.ca](http://leaderimpact.ca) or get in touch

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