

## Tough People Needed

Tough: capable of great endurance; sturdy; hardy

*“For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. So, my dear brothers and sisters, **be strong and immovable**. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.” 1 Corinthians 15:56-58 (NLT)*

**Timely Truth: It is purpose that brings meaning to life, and not meaning that brings purpose**

- A most important thing to remember is this: be ready at any moment to give up what you’re doing for what you might become

## Four Characteristics of Tough People

**1. The ability to sense God when you can’t see him is intuition**

- Direct perception of truth, fact, etc., independent of any reasoning process; immediate apprehension; a keen and quick insight

*“At that time there was a Jewish man in the fortress of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair. He was from the tribe of Benjamin and was a descendant of Kish and Shimei. His*

Our Community Groups meet throughout the Denver Metro Area. You may find a listing of these groups online at [www.fbc.org/smallgroups](http://www.fbc.org/smallgroups). For more information or questions, please contact Ceely Ann at 303.424.2121, ext. 92407 or [ceelyann.lonergan@fbc.org](mailto:ceelyann.lonergan@fbc.org).

**Please feel free to come down to the front for prayer after service.  
“...pray for one another...” James 5:16**

family had been among those who, with King Jehoiachin of Judah, had been exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. This man had a very beautiful and lovely young cousin, Hadassah, who was also called Esther. When her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her into his family and raised her as his own daughter. As a result of the king's decree, Esther, along with many other young women, was brought to the king's harem at the fortress of Susa and placed in Hegai's care. Hegai was very impressed with Esther and treated her kindly. He quickly ordered a special menu for her and provided her with beauty treatments. He also assigned her seven maids specially chosen from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maids into the best place in the harem.”  
Esther 2:5-9 (NLT)

What are you sensing God is doing, and what are you doing in response? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. The willingness to say yes to God when you don't know what that requires is responsiveness

- Reacting or replying quickly or favorably, as to a suggestion, initiative, etc.

“As a result of the king's decree, Esther, along with many other young women, was brought to the king's harem at the fortress of Susa and placed in Hegai's care. Hegai was very impressed with Esther and treated her kindly. He quickly ordered a special menu for her and provided her with beauty treatments. He also assigned her seven maids specially chosen from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maids into the best place in the harem. Esther had not told anyone of her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had directed her not to do so. Every day Mordecai would take a walk near the courtyard of the harem to find out about Esther and what was happening to her.”  
Esther 2:8-11 (NLT)

## 3. The willingness to take risks and be exposed to uncertainty is vulnerability

- Capable of or susceptible to being wounded or hurt, open to moral attack, criticism, temptation, etc.

“Before each young woman was taken to the king's bed, she was given the prescribed twelve months of beauty treatments—six months with oil of myrrh, followed by six months with special perfumes and ointments. When it was time for her to go to the king's palace, she was given her choice of whatever clothing or jewelry she wanted to take from the harem. That evening she was taken to the king's private rooms, and the next morning she was brought to the second harem, where the king's wives lived. There she would be under the care of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch in charge of the concubines. She would never go to the king again unless he had especially enjoyed her and requested her by name.”  
Esther 2:12-14 (NLT)

## 4. The willingness to persevere in the midst of a great challenge is endurance

- The ability or strength to continue or last, especially despite fatigue, stress, or other adverse conditions

“When Mordecai learned about all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on burlap and ashes, and went out into the city, crying with a loud and bitter wail. He went as far as the gate of the palace, for no one was allowed to enter the palace gate while wearing clothes of mourning. And as news of the king's decree reached all the provinces, there was great mourning among the Jews. They fasted, wept, and wailed, and many people lay in burlap and ashes. When Queen Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was deeply distressed. She sent clothing to him to replace the burlap, but he refused it.”  
Esther 4:1-5 (NLT)