**Table Talk**

**Sermon Series: Tough As Nails - Mission**

**March 7, 2021**

**Introduction (8 min)**

Table Talk Groups (45 minute study) begin by watching the video and sharing the story below, then open up the discussion with the questions provided.

Southside Home (35 minute study) can skip to “Starting the Discussion” as a follow up to the worship experience.

**Table Talk Video: Tough As Nails - Mission**

In this week’s sermon we discussed how Jesus chose grit over quit – no matter what hardship he faced he chose to persevere in the mission our Heavenly Father had given him.

Every week, I am blessed to work with families who desire to grow in their walk with God. Yet, these same families are experiencing discouragement, conflict, sadness, and that linger sense of disconnectedness. These same families are struggling to focus on school, work from home, maintain relationships with people they never see anymore, and feel like they have a sense of purpose in a world that looks so differently than it did a year ago.

As critically important as our mission is of impacting families to transform our world with the Good News of Jesus, it is easy for that to get lost among the distractions thrown at us every day. How do we rise above the chaos? I keep encouraging families to focus on the message of Jesus. They will never have an impact because I ask them to. They will never transform their world because it sounds like fun. They have to have to be impacted daily by Jesus’ own words and transformed as they experience his determination through the scriptures. Only the Spirit of a faithful, resurrected Jesus can inspire us to live our mission in a world full of distraction. Seeing Jesus’ example reminds us that we too can be empowered to choose grit over quit in fulfilling God’s mission!

- Pastor Reggie Phillips

**Prayer (2 minutes)**

Father, help us to stay focused on your message and inspired to fulfill your mission as we study your Word today. Empower us as we read to live a life on mission for you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Starting the Discussion (3 minutes)**

1. Who is someone in your life who displayed toughness and determination as a role model for you?

**Unfolding the Biblical Story (24 minutes)**

**Invite someone to read Mathew 1:21 and John 1:29**

1. What do these two verses tell us was the mission of Jesus?
2. Who gave Jesus that mission and who benefitted from it?
3. Why would Jesus accept a mission that would cost him so much and whose rewards were for someone other than himself?
4. If God asked you to do something that would be extremely costly to you personally and the rewards of that action benefitted someone other than you, would you be willing to stay on mission? Have you been in that position before?

**Read Luke 9:51**

1. Up to this point Jesus has faced a tremendous amount of opposition, much of it from the religious elite of Jerusalem. Why would he resolutely set out for Jerusalem anyway?
2. When you run into hardship or opposition, how do you respond? Do you assume you are outside of God’s will and turn away or do you dig in and focus on the mission God has given you?
3. When God’s plans include something you don’t want to do, do you take active steps into it or do you wait for it to happen to you? Which approach do you think is more Christ-like and pleasing to God?

**Invite someone to read John 16:33**

1. What does it do to your spirit in difficult times like these to hear these words from Jesus?
2. As you live out God’s mission for your life, what troubles are you facing right now? Are you willing to ask the Spirit of God to empower you to face them with the same determination and focus that Jesus possessed?

**Prayer (2 minutes)**

Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on us today. May your power be made perfect in our weakness as we walk forward into the mission you have given us. May the same determination that we see in Jesus be seen by others in us, and may it be a light to them demonstrating that our faith in Jesus is true and firm. May we never let up as we press into the mission to which you have called us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Wrapping Up (2 minutes)**

See if anyone has lingering questions or insights to share from your time of study and prayer. Summarize the group discussion as a reminder of what you learned together.

**Scripture Challenge (4 minutes)**

This week try to memorizing John 16:33. Take a few minutes to practice/repeat it together as a group. If you struggle to memorize a verse, place it somewhere prominent. Maybe write in on a card and tape it to the dash of your car or to your computer screen, you could use a marker or even lipstick to write it out on your bathroom mirror. Find a way to make it matter! Keep the words of Jesus before you this week as you embrace the mission God has for you!