



**Bible Verses – The Message**

<p><b>Luke 2:52 - 52</b> And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.</p> <p><b>Matthew 28:18-20 - 18</b> Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: <b>19</b> Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. <b>20</b> Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."</p> <p><b>Acts 2:14-21 - 14</b> That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. <b>15</b> These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk - it's only nine o'clock in the morning. <b>16</b> This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen: <b>17</b> "In the Last Days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters; Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams. <b>18</b> When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit On those who serve me, men and women both, and they'll prophesy. <b>19</b> I'll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, Blood and fire and billowing smoke, <b>20</b> the sun turning black and the moon blood-red, Before the Day of the Lord arrives, the Day tremendous and marvelous; <b>21</b> And whoever calls out for help to me, God, will be saved."</p> <p><b>I Samuel 16:1-13 - 1</b> God addressed Samuel: "So, how long are you going to mope over Saul? You know I've rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your flask with anointing oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I've spotted the very king I want among his sons." <b>2</b> "I can't do that," said Samuel. "Saul will hear about it and kill me." <b>3</b> Make sure Jesse gets invited. I'll let you know what to do next. I'll point out the one you are to anoint. <b>4</b> Samuel did what God told him. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the town fathers greeted him, but apprehensively. "Is there something wrong?" <b>5</b> "Nothing's wrong. I've come to sacrifice this heifer and lead you in the worship of God. Prepare yourselves, be consecrated, and join me in worship." He made sure Jesse and his sons were also consecrated and called to worship. <b>6</b> When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Here he is! God's anointed!" <b>7</b> But God told Samuel, "Looks aren't everything. Don't be impressed with his looks and stature. I've already eliminated him. God judges persons differently than</p>	<p>humans do. Men and women look at the face; God looks into the heart." <b>8</b> Jesse then called up Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. Samuel said, "This man isn't God's choice either." <b>9</b> Next Jesse presented Shammah. Samuel said, "No, this man isn't either." <b>10</b> Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel. Samuel was blunt with Jesse, "God hasn't chosen any of these." <b>11</b> Then he asked Jesse, "Is this it? Are there no more sons?" "Well, yes, there's the runt. But he's out tending the sheep." Samuel ordered Jesse, "Go get him. We're not moving from this spot until he's here." <b>12</b> Jesse sent for him. He was brought in, the very picture of health - bright-eyed, good-looking. God said, "Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one." <b>13</b> Samuel took his flask of oil and anointed him, with his brothers standing around watching. The Spirit of God entered David like a rush of wind, God vitally empowering him for the rest of his life. Samuel left and went home to Ramah.</p> <p><b>II Samuel 23:8-17 - 8</b> This is the listing of David's top men. Josheb-Basshebeth, the Tahkemonite. He was chief of the Three. He once put his spear to work against eight hundred - killed them all in a day. <b>9</b> Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite was the next of the elite Three. He was with David when the Philistines poked fun at them at Pas Dammim. When the Philistines drew up for battle, Israel retreated. <b>10</b> But Eleazar stood his ground and killed Philistines right and left until he was exhausted - but he never let go of his sword! A big win for God that day. The army then rejoined Eleazar, but all there was left to do was the clean-up. <b>11</b> Shammah son of Agee the Hararite was the third of the Three. The Philistines had mustered for battle at Lehi, where there was a field full of lentils. Israel fled before the Philistines <b>12</b>, but Shammah took his stand at the center of the field, successfully defended it, and routed the Philistines. Another great victory for God! <b>13</b> One day during harvest, the Three parted from the Thirty and joined David at the Cave of Adullam. A squad of Philistines had set up camp in the Valley of Rephaim. <b>14</b> While David was holed up in the Cave, the Philistines had their base camp in Bethlehem <b>15</b> David had a sudden craving and said, "Would I ever like a drink of water from the well at the gate of Bethlehem!" <b>16</b> So the Three penetrated the Philistine lines, drew water from the well at the gate of Bethlehem, and brought it back to David. But David wouldn't drink it; he poured it out as an offering to God, <b>17</b> saying, "There is no way, God, that I'll drink this! This isn't mere water, it's their life-blood - they risked their very lives to bring it!" So David refused to drink it. This is the sort of thing that the Three did.</p>
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**Lion Maker Declaration**

<p>I will quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death.                  Be the Lion!                  I will set God-sized goals.                  I will pursue God-given passions.                  I will go after a dream that is destined to fail without divine intervention.                  Be the Lion!                  I will stop pointing out problems.                  I will become part of the solution.                  I will stop repeating the past.                  I will start creating my future.                  Be the Lion!                  I will face my fears.                  I will fight for my dreams.                  I will grab opportunity by the mane and not let go!                  Be the Lion!                  I will live like today is the first day and last day of my life.                  I will burn sinful bridges.                  I will blaze new trails.</p>	<p>I will pursue the next Adventure!                  Be the Lion!                  I will live for the applause of nail-scarred hands.                  I will not let what's wrong with me                  Keep me from whispering what's right with God.                  Be the Lion!                  I will dare to fail.                  I will dare to be different.                  I will quit holding out.                  I will quit holding back.                  I will quit running away.                  I will use my gifts and brokenness to impact others.                  I will seek to be a brother and father to other men.                  I will live in community.                  I will fight!  <b>I Will Be the Lion!</b>  <b>I will seek to be like Jesus!</b></p>
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