

# *Loyal Heart* MINISTRIES

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## **Bold as a Lion**

A Study for Women by *Stephanie Little*

*Key Verse: "The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion."*

*Proverbs 28:1*

Today marked the start of another homeschooling year in our family. With a junior, an eighth grader, a fifth grader, a first time kindergartner and a two year old, I needed to do something different and creative. So, I set about to give our year a solid theme, one we will remember and look to as a "mission" of sorts. I searched Scripture for just the right idea from the Most Creative One I know. He led me to Proverbs 28:1, which says, "*The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.*" As I considered the first part of the verse, I remembered Adam and Eve. After their sin, they attempted to flee and hide from the Presence of the Lord. I can only imagine how feverishly they must have worked, in anger, fear and frustration, to cover their shame with the very leaves God had created for their enjoyment. Their fear of being discovered must have driven them to hide in the bushes God Himself had caused to flourish. Adam and Eve fled when no one was pursuing. God was not chasing them. He was watching them. He did not hunt them down like animals, seeking their destruction. He came to meet His beloved ones in His usual way, to walk with them in the beauty of the garden. Tragically, guilt, shame and fear stole away the beautiful fellowship Adam and Eve once had with the Father. In His mercy, we know God provided a Hope for salvation and a way of restoration. We see in Proverbs 28:1 the hope unfolding throughout Scripture; the hope of the Righteous One, the Redeemer, Jesus, our Savior. The second part of the verse says, "But the righteous are bold as a lion." On our own, we have no righteousness. As a matter of fact, Isaiah points out "...all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags..." (64:6). There is nothing good within us apart from Christ. Through Him we are made righteous and His righteousness is placed upon us. Therefore, our boldness cannot come from within our own heart, soul or spirit, but rather through the Holy Spirit working the righteousness of Christ in us. Where guilt, shame and fear send our hearts into a panicked flight, the righteousness of Christ beckons us to come boldly before the throne of God, into His very Presence, where we will find mercy, grace and help in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16). How can we practice the truth of Proverbs 28:1, becoming bold as a LION? In thinking of our mission for the year, I outlined some key actions we can take in our book study for school as well as in our Bible study. I think these action points apply to all of us, no matter our age or stage of spiritual maturity. We must begin to **Listen well**. Take the time to really listen to what God has to say in His Word. Spend time in prayer and wait to hear Him. Meditate on the Scripture you are reading and think about Who God is as He reveals Himself through His Word. Next, **Investigate fully**. Commit to the time, effort and energy it will take to truly study Scripture. Invest in a good study Bible, commentary and concordance. Use online resources such as *eSword* and *Bible Gateway* to discover the meaning of passages and to cross reference in your

study. As you continue in your growth, remember to **Observe** and **Obey**. Look for God's hand working and obey His call to be a part of His work. Be willing to do anything and everything He desires. Remember, there is no more exciting place to be than on mission with God. Many people miss opportunities to be used in Kingdom work simply because they do not know God well enough to recognize His work or to hear His voice. Devote yourself to learning and obeying Him. Finally, as you begin to seek and grow, remember to **Never give up!** Don't let feelings or emotions take you to a place of timidity or lethargy in your walk with God. Be like a tenacious LION who will not give up on his quest. Through the ability, understanding and righteousness granted to you by Jesus, keep going; keep growing and keep being BOLD for the Lord!

For your study:

1) Take a look at the actual events of creation and the fall of man found in Genesis 1:1-3:24. Answer the following questions:

-What do I learn about God in these chapters?

-What do I learn about man?

-What promise did God make in the midst of the judgment He gave concerning sin?

-What truth can I apply to my own walk today and how will I apply it?

2) Read Isaiah 64:1-8. Write down all that you see about God, Who He is and what He has done, in these verses. Think about how God has worked in your own life. Write down ways you have seen Him working. Now, think about the world around you. How do you see God moving and working in and through His people? Is there one area of God's work in which you know He is calling you to be involved? Why not commit to follow Him in that area today?

3) Study Hebrews 4:13-16. How does this passage describe God? Why is it useless, pointless and hopeless to try and hide from Him? What has Jesus done for us? As a result of His sacrifice, what privilege do we have? Come boldly before the throne of God and spend time thanking Him and praising Him for the mercy, grace and help He so freely gives us.