

Book # 1 in the series ...

TOOLBOX BOOKS PRESENTS
LIFE ESSENTIALS IN CHEWABLE FORM

design- amentals!

(dee-ZINE-uh-MEN-tuhls)

LIFE-PROVOKING PRINCIPLES FOR TWEENS
WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY ALAN ROOT!

A bedrock study of **how** we got here,
to find out where we're going, and why.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY (by-AWG-ruh-fee)

short biography

Alan Root is a rock & roll musicianary to older kids. He is taller than he looks in this book. He likes reading books like Treasure Island and Nero Wolfe mysteries and almost anything by CS Lewis. He likes microwave popcorn, hiking, painting with watercolor, musical techno toys, strong coffee, and basketball. He has a B.S. and has done postgraduate studies in Geology at the University of Tennessee. For more than 17 years he's been traveling the U.S. ministering the Gospel of Jesus with an electric guitar. He's done music for Wrigley's, Kellogg's, the Billy Graham Children's Crusade, and Dr. Seuss, won 3 Telly awards, and has tons of CDs and DVDs for kids available at alanroot.com.



He even drew the pictures for this book all by himself.

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Scriptural quotes taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation. Original work copyright © 1996 by Tyndale Charitable Trust. All rights reserved.. Quotes also taken from The World English Bible, published by Michael Paul Johnson in 1997 as a revision of the American Standard Bible, the Revised King James by Brad Haugaard,, both of which are in the public domain. Also the Bible in Worldwide English, published in 1962 by the American Bible Society. It is a paraphrase of the King James by Annie Cressman, a Canadian Bible teacher who lived in the early 1900's.

TITLE PAGE (TYE-tull-payj)

designamentals!

(dee-ZINE-uh-MEN-tuhls) noun 1. a study of the original beginnings of life and of you and me 2. an adventure in discovering the most rock bottom "why" of all time.

A rock-bottom study of what's up with life and the universe and stuff like **Biblical creation versus naturalistic evolution** including the ultimate meaning of life, written especially for tweens by the ubiquitous **ALAN ROOT!**



Note to teachers... you know who you are.

Daily Readings: Get a book for each student. The chapters are about 12 pages long. Strongly encourage your kids to read a couple of pages a day with breakfast.

Black Boxes: These questions occur during the flow of the chapter. The answers are often obvious, but it helps springboard class discussion to get tweens' marvelous brains thinking. **Q&A:** Have the kids pencil in their answers.

Then check the first appendix for what I thought the answers were. Use this section as a catechism. **Activities:**

Suggestions for full-contact learning: some of us prefer kinetic discovery. **Going Deeper:** Some of your kids will be challenged enough by what's in the chapters, but some will want to dig down deeper. Send them to Appendix 4 and ask them to take notes on what they find to share with the class. The format is free form back there- it's just a treasure trove of ideas with no ties to a specific chapter.

Coming books in the series...

... more **PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES** for tweens on the way.

1. **designamentals** (creation, absolutes, authority)
2. **legalonomics** (right and wrong, Law and Grace)
3. **salvificology** (starting out on life's biggest adventure)
4. **disciplification** (practical tips on living the Christian life)
5. **bibliotectonics** (the world's most earth-shaking book)
6. **orthodoxtrines** (what all Christians everywhere believe)
7. **pilgrimmometry** (Christianity in today's culture)

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PSSSST! HEY YOU (hay-YUE)

PSSSST! HEY YOU

If you're sure you have given your life to
Jesus already, skip this page.

But if you're not sure, don't worry, just read
this page carefully.

***DID YOU EVER THINK THAT THERE MUST
BE MORE TO LIFE THAN LIVING AND
DYING? THERE IS. YOU, MY FRIEND,
HAVE BEEN MADE FOR A GLORIOUS
PURPOSE. NOW YOU MUST SEEK IT...***

Do you think God makes things and says,
"Whatever, dude!" Me neither. God makes
things purposefully. Could **we** also be made
for a purpose? For a reason? To find why you
were made, head for Appendix 2 where you'll
find stuff that will help you take your first
step into the actual "real world." OK?

INTRODUCTION: I belong to Someone else.

DESIGNAMENTALS is an adventure through worlds of exciting ideas you may never have imagined. "He who knows not from whence he comes knows not whither he goes."

"The LORD, the Maker of the heavens and earth—the LORD is his name—says this: 'Ask me and I will tell you some remarkable secrets...'" (Jeremiah 33:2-3 NLT)



If you just want to grow up and live to decide which restaurant and what movie it will be tonight, drop this book immediately.

There are principles in this book that will make a boring life impossible... Don't say I didn't tell you. **You have been warned!**

DESIGNAMENTALS (dee-ZINE-uh-MEN-tuhls)

“All things were made through him. Without him was not anything made that has been made.” (John 1:3 WEB)

OK, SO IS THIS VERSE SAYING THAT GOD GOT EVERYTHING STARTED AND THEN LEFT, AND THE WORLD KIND OF TOOK OVER THE REST OF THE CREATION PROCESS FROM THERE?

This is one of the most powerful verses in all the Bible. To be a Christian and to blow past these words is shallow and careless. Speaking of the Word of God, John says that all things, **positively all things, were created by the Word of God**, Jesus. If there is a system of thinking that says something other than this, there are two options: either IT is a lie, or the Word of God is. The choice must be faced and the choice must be made. Have you had these thoughts before?

INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

If I make a drawing, who owns the drawing?
If I write a poem, who owns the poem? If I
make a sculpture, who owns that sculpture?
If I made the world (and believe me, I didn't!),
who would own the world?

This book is about what happens to us when
we discover that God is our Creator. Once we
understand that, once it takes hold of our
thinking and understanding, it will shake up
our lives. There are whole systems of belief
that must "bow the knee" to this one giant,
mind-expanding idea: **God made me.**

Is it **MY** time? **MY** life? Do I live for **MY** will?
Should I do things MY way?

If God made us out of nothing with his own
hands (read Genesis 1:26 and 27) **to whom**
do we belong? To ourselves, or to Another?

Don't answer without first **thinking...**

DESIGNAMENTALS (dee-ZINE-uh-MEN-tuhls)

What's this book about? Listen up...

**I HAVE BEEN CREATED
BY ALMIGHTY GOD.
THIS INARGUABLE
FACT CHANGES THE
FOUNDATION OF MY
THINKING ABOUT THE
WORLD AROUND ME.**

CHAPTER ONE

THE PRINCIPLE OF CURIOSITY

Who's there?



You're human. What does that mean? What is the **essence** of humanity? I suggest it's **curiosity**. Yes cats are curious, in every sense of that word, but they don't care about how to make Portland cement or why the moon revolves around the earth. But you and I wonder about that.

Your personal curiosity may have been short circuited by our hyper entertain-me society. When I was growing up, my favorite toy was dirt. Tomorrow, as I write this book, people will line up to purchase a coupon to let them line up to buy a Playstation. Something has changed. It has affected **our capacity for being curious** about the world around us.

DESIGNAMENTALS (dee-ZINE-uh-MEN-tuhls)

Curiosity is where it all begins. Your life will be one boring day after another boring day until you learn this wonderful tool.

Look at the wall.

See the light switch? What does it do? How does it do that? Who installed it? Who invented it? Why is it next to the door?

Where does it's power come from?

How is the power stored and how does it get to this room? Are you getting the idea?!! Leaf through an encyclopedia or walk down the non-fiction aisles of your local library and read the titles. Make you curious?



CHAPTER 1: WHO'S THERE? THE PRINCIPLE OF **CURIOSITY**

There's no such thing as a great answer without there being a **great question**. If I say "Sixty six," that answer means nothing until you know that the question is, "How many books are there in the Bible?"

DO YOU HAVE A SENSE OF WONDER? WHAT DO YOU WONDER ABOUT? DO YOU LOOK UP AT THE NIGHT SKY OR WATCH A WORM CRAWL OR SEE A BABY SMILE AND BEGIN TO WONDER WHY THIS WORLD IS THE WAY THIS WORLD IS?

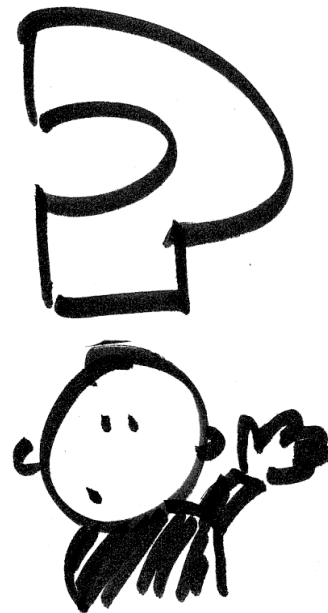
Questions are the beginning of a life of wonder. If you decide to let someone else think for you, they will. But if you decide you're going to look at the cosmos through wondering eyes, you will be rewarded.

"Call to me and I will answer and tell you great and marvelous things..." Jer. 33:3

DESIGNAMENTALS (dee-ZINE-uh-MEN-tuhls)

WHO am I? **WHAT** am I? And by far the most fascinating, **WHY** am I?

What's real? What's eternal? What's going on with the world around me? Who's running the planet? Is there anyone at the steering wheel, or is everything chance and happenstance? Do I matter? Does what I think matter? Does what I do or don't do matter? Are we a speck of dust in an infinite universe that has absolutely no significance? Is there value to human life more than the animals? What is love and where does it come from? Who wrote my DNA? Who decided I would exist? What is a lucky accident and what is purposefully guided in my life? These are really good questions that need really good answers.



CHAPTER 1: WHO'S THERE? THE PRINCIPLE OF **CURIOSITY**

Science itself began with curious Christians. Roger Bacon, a Christian, invented the scientific method later perfected by Francis Bacon: observe, theorize and experimentally test. You want more people who had faith in their Creator? Faraday, Joule, Kepler, Cuvier, Carver, Edison, Einstein, Pascal, Von Braun, Dalton, Morse, Newton, Kelvin, Pasteur, Mendel ... all believers in God and God's creation, who looked for God's fingerprints, all outstanding scientist who had a passionate **curiosity**.

WHAT HAVE PEOPLE OF FAITH DONE FOR SCIENCE? DOES SCIENCE CHAMPION PEOPLE OF FAITH THESE DAYS ?

If anyone tries to tell you that science can't include faith, tell them Creationists began science. It's not very bright to claim an open, enlightened mind if God's not allowed in it!

DESIGNAMENTALS (dee-ZINE-uh-MEN-tuhls)



God loves a good question.

“Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. For everyone

who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks..” (Matthew 7:7-8

NLT) This verse says a lot about how God feels about the mysteries of His creation.

The truth is, it's wrong if we don't see God's majesty revealed in creation! In Psalm 8, David says something like, “When I look at the heavens and all that you created, what is man that you should even think of him?”

David noticed God's handiwork. **God is actually angry** with those who won't acknowledge Him from creation...

CHAPTER 1: WHO'S THERE? THE PRINCIPLE OF **CURIOSITY**

“DESTRUCTION IS CERTAIN FOR THOSE WHO ARGUE WITH THEIR CREATOR. DOES A CLAY POT EVER ARGUE WITH ITS MAKER? HOW TERRIBLE IT WOULD BE IF A NEWBORN BABY SAID TO ITS FATHER AND MOTHER, ‘WHY WAS I BORN? WHY DID YOU MAKE ME THIS WAY?’” THIS IS WHAT THE LORD, THE CREATOR AND HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL, SAYS: ‘DO YOU QUESTION WHAT I DO? DO YOU GIVE ME ORDERS ABOUT THE WORK OF MY HANDS? I AM THE ONE WHO MADE THE EARTH AND CREATED PEOPLE TO LIVE ON IT. WITH MY HANDS I STRETCHED OUT THE HEAVENS. ALL THE MILLIONS OF STARS ARE AT MY COMMAND.’”

ISAIAH 45:9-12 NLT

DESIGNAMENTALS (dee-ZINE-uh-MEN-tuhls)

Those who say that creation is only a fairy tale should read Scriptures like that last one carefully. Those who think themselves so smart that they can confidently claim God did not create the world are in for a rude awakening when they see God face to face and he asks them why they "argued with their Creator." And when you hear someone making fun of creation, tell them God says there's **no excuse for not knowing** about creation, that God will "destroy" those who argue about such obvious truths.

"But God shows his anger from heaven against all... who push the truth away from themselves. From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever..." (Romans 1:18-20 NIV)

CHAPTER 1: WHO'S THERE? THE PRINCIPLE OF **CURIOSITY**

Should Christians be scientists?
What?!! Absolutely!!! Christians
should be in touch with their world
in every way
possible: artistic,
cultural, political,
philosophical, and
scientific to name a
few ways. By all
means, if you love
botany and biology
and physics and
astronomy, plunge
in. But know that
as a Christian in today's scientific
community you'll be an outcast. No
different than anywhere else, but
just don't be surprised. Jesus said, "If
the world hated me, it will hate you
too!" What an honor to be in the
company of Jesus!



DESIGNAMENTALS (dee-ZINE-uh-MEN-tuhls)

We have now begun to explore the joy of curiosity. We've said that **curiosity is the essence of being human**. We've said that it is the starting place for a life that can't wait for each new day. We've said that science owes its beginning to those who wanted to find God's fingerprints in creation.

SO THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER CHRISTIANS OUGHT TO BE CURIOUS ABOUT THEIR WORLD, THE ONLY QUESTION IS; WHICH PART OF GOD'S CREATION WILL YOU CHOOSE TO INVESTIGATE? HOW ABOUT IT? WHAT FASCINATES YOU AS YOU LOOK AROUND? WHAT IN THE WORLD INTRIGUES YOU AND CALLS TO YOU TO LOOK CLOSER? WHAT MYSTERY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY?

If you can't be curious about something, don't you find **THAT** to be curious?

CHAPTER 1: WHO'S THERE? THE PRINCIPLE OF **CURIOSITY**

Q&A 1

Q Why are we often bored? What is the source of our boredom?

Q What is the antidote for this boredom?

Q Why should we be curious?

DESIGNAMENTALS (dee-ZINE-uh-MEN-tuhls)

PRAYER (be sure to say it in your own way)

**JESUS, WOULD YOU
AWAKEN IN ME A
CURIOSITY ABOUT
YOUR CREATION? I
WANT TO ASK, SEEK
AND KNOCK. THANKS
FOR THE WONDER.**