

Book # 4 in the series ...
TOOLBOX BOOKS PRESENTS
LIFE ESSENTIALS IN CHEWABLE FORM



discipli- fication!

(dis-IPP-li-fi-KAY-shun)

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

Anybody can get saved...
it takes guts to live saved.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY (by-AWG-ruh-fee)

short biography

ALAN ROOT IS A ROCK & ROLL MUSICIANY
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
14 YEARS HE'S BEEN TRAVELING THE U.S.
MINISTERING THE GOSPEL WITH AN ELECTRIC
GUITAR. HE'S DONE MUSIC FOR WRIGLEYS,
KELLOGGS, 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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TITLE PAGE (TYE-tull-payj)

disciplification!

(dis-IPP-li-fi-KAY-shun) noun **1.** The travels of a **disciple**. **2.** The **practiced habit** of "following." **3.** A made-up word which simply means the **life-changes made** to become more and more like Jesus each day.

written by

alan root!

A 6-to-12-week study
of the adventure of

following Jesus, written especially
for **tweens**.



NOTE TO TEACHERS (TEE-churz)

Note to teachers...

... you know who you are.

Daily Readings: Each chapter is 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. Your kids will probably have better ones. **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 farther. Send them to Appendix 4 and ask them to take notes on what they find to share with the class.

Coming books in the series...

... more practical principals 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** (a study of the world's greatest book)
6. **orthodoxines** (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.

Since you can't **live** saved until you **get** saved, you may need to take care of some business with Jesus.

If this is the case, head for Appendix 2 where you'll find stuff that will help you make your first step into the actual "real world." OK.

**WE CAN FAKE OUT EVERYBODY EXCEPT
FOR ONE PERSON, NOW WHO MIGHT
THAT BE? IF WE CAN'T FAKE HIM OUT,
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?**

INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

INTRODUCTION

Anybody can get saved, Jesus makes it simple. All we must do is give every bit of our dead, stinkin', rotten life to Jesus and follow him. Jesus then gives us his own life.

It's such an unbelievable deal, the only reason everybody isn't saved is because they **don't understand** what Jesus is offering.



Would you like a gigazillion dollars or a sharp stick in the foot?

Feel free to chose the stick.

DISCIPLIFICATION (dis-IPP-li-fi-KAY-shun)

But disciplification is different from getting saved. Disciplification is all about how each day gets lived by someone who is saved.

Not just saved from our sins and from hell, but saved from **empty living**, saved from **brainless thinking**, and saved from being the small "k" king of **our own tiny castle**.

WHERE IN MY LIFE AM I KEEPING GOD
OUT? HOW DO I TURN MY BACK ON HIM?
WHY IN THE WORLD DO I DO THAT?

Saved to follow Jesus minute by minute
and have real life.

INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

This book deals less with **getting** saved,
and more with **living** saved.

So. What difference does Jesus make in
our life here and now? With friends, with
parents, with teachers, with choices?

**WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES JESUS MAKE IN
EACH CRUCIAL, UNIMPORTANT, CRAZY,
ROUTINE, BORING, FASCINATING,
EXTREME, SAME-OLD SAME-OLD DAY OF
YOUR LIFE ON THE 3RD ORBITING
PROJECTILE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM?**

DISCIPLIFICATION (dis-IPP-li-fi-KAY-shun)

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

**LIFE, REAL LIFE, IS
DAILY FOLLOWING
JESUS, CHANGING
OUR LIVES TO BE
LIKE HIM: IN A
SINGLE WORD,
DISCIPLIFICATION.**

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPAL OF LOSTNESS

CHAPTER 1
WHERE IS EVERYBODY? (IT'S DARK)

Something's terribly wrong, so what is it?

We all are in a **dark pit**. We climb out, brush ourselves off, and with our next step, fall right back in.

The name of the dark pit is **sin**. Sin means doing what we want instead of what God wants. It's a trap.



In Romans 7, Saint Paul says something like: "I'm totally clueless, my own body stabs me in the back! Somebody help!"

Life around us can be evil, twisted, cruel and dark. We often ask "What's the point?"
Sin is a pit, and **we're all in it**.

DISCIPLIFICATION (dis-IPP-li-fi-KAY-shun)

(ALAN) You don't remember falling into the pit? Of course not, 'cause we're born already inside it. Our great great grandfather Adam fell in. Theologians call this event, ironically enough, "THE FALL." And ever since, we've been living in that dark pit.



CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPAL OF LOSTNESS

We don't usually notice that we're in the dark pit. But sometimes we have this **strange, nagging feeling** that all is not well. In the back of our mind, we know things ought to add up. But things don't.

That's what the darkness does, it blinds us.
Ever been deep in a cave?

Guess what? The dark pit holds a secret for us. The fact that we know the dark pit is **wrong** says that there must be such a thing as "**right**." If there is no "up," "down" loses something.

Opposites reveal each other. Make sense?

**IF THERE IS DARKNESS, WHAT IS IT'S
OPPOSITE? IF WE SEE EVIL, THERE MUST
ALSO BE WHAT?**

DISCIPLINATION (dis-IPP-li-fi-KAY-shun)

Have you ever seen your stomach? No? So
how do you know your stomach exists?

Stay with me!

Listen up. Have you ever been hungry?

Hah! Me too.

Do you need to unzip
your belly to see if you
have a stomach, or can
you simply **conclude**
by faith from your
feelings of hunger
that a place called
"stomach" exists?



**"SEEING IS BELIEVING" IS NOT ALWAYS
TRUE. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS
WE CAN'T SEE BUT STILL BELIEVE?**

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPAL OF LOSTNESS

Have you ever seen Neptune? Don't say yes, you're not thinking. You probably haven't actually seen Neptune. For all we know, astronomers' pictures could be from Hollywood or Photoshop®.

But the point is, nobody anywhere doubts the existence of Neptune and it's cool moon, Triton.



Many things in life we take by faith. **Faith isn't a blind leap into the void**, it's usually a reasonable next step.

So, for instance, if we see that this planet is messed up, then by faith we know that there must be a place where everything works right. Yes?

DISCIPLINATION (dis-IPP-li-fi-KAY-shun)

So the dark pit, in a twisted way, gives us a promise that somewhere, somehow, there must be a place where light is normal and goodness is what happens all the time.

Again, not a blind leap, **a reasonable next step**. That's what faith is.

Because we see the darkness all around us in this planet and it tells us about the light. Darkness is scary, light must be comforting. Darkness is where bad wins, light must be where good wins. Darkness is blinding, light must be eye-opening.

And speaking of opening eyes...



CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPAL OF LOSTNESS

Mark 10:46 Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." 50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." 52 "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you. Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

DISCIPLINATION (dis-IPP-li-fi-KAY-shun)

The blind man is stumblin', rumblin',
fumblin' in the dark. Just like we
sometimes do.

But he knows **he needs something**.
Maybe it's Jesus.

So he cries out to
Jesus. Good move,
blind man. Jesus
asks what seems to
be an obvious
question. "What do
you want?"



The disciples must
be thinking, "Hello,
Jesus, this man is
BLIND!!!"

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPAL OF LOSTNESS

(ALAN) But maybe you've never been blind. The blind man's answer, "I want to see," is actually brilliant. Remember, he was BORN BLIND. He's never had eyes that worked. He doesn't really know what eyesight is.



DISCIPLINATION (dis-IPP-li-fi-KAY-shun)

Have you ever been bothered by the feeling that something's wrong, but you don't know what?

WHAT IS A "NAGGING FEELING?" WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOURS, IGNORE THEM HOPING THAT THEY'LL GO AWAY?

Do you wish that things would make more sense? Do you wish that you could get a bigger picture of life? Do want to discover more of the "whys?"

Have you ever **called out** to Jesus?

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPAL OF LOSTNESS

Q&A 1

Q What is the haunting feeling we all have?

Q When did we fall into the dark pit of sin?

Q Is faith a blind leap into the void of no reason?

DISCIPLINATION (dis-IPP-li-fi-KAY-shun)

PRAYER (be sure say it your own way)

**LORD, THE WORLD
IS SUCH A DARK
PLACE, THANKS
FOR SHINING ON
ME WITH YOUR
EYE-OPENING
LIGHT.**