

Book # 6 in the series ...

TOOLBOX BOOKS PRESENTS

LIFE ESSENTIALS IN CHEWABLE FORM

ORTHO- DOCTRINES!

(OAR-thow-DOK-trenz)

What Christians have always believed.

LIFE-PROVOKING PRINCIPLES FOR TWEENS

an indispensable resource of non-negotiable,
on-target teaching of the Christian faith,
written especially for tweens!

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY ALAN ROOT!

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 enjoys 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. He's done music for Wrigley's, Kellogg's, the Billy Graham Children's Crusade, and Dr. Seuss, won 3 national Telly awards For two decades he's been traveling the United States ministering the Gospel of Jesus with an electric guitar. He has tons of CDs and DVDs for kids available at www.alanroot.com.



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

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For more copies, or to book an event, visit www.alanroot.com.

Scriptural quotes taken from the New International Version © Copyright 1973,1978, 1984 by International Bible society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. In a few places, I used the Bible in Worldwide English, published in 1962 by the American Bible Society, a paraphrase of the King James by Annie Cressman, a missionary Bible teacher who taught kids in the early 1900's and got tired of explaining the translation instead of the gospel.

TITLE PAGE (TYE-tull-payj)

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(OAR-thow-DOK-trenz) noun 1. Straight teachings.
2. What Christians consider essential to believe.
3. The basics of faith for which Christians of all ages and throughout time have been willing to die.

Welcome to a general and quick study of the bedrock principles of Christianity: things for which there is little or no wiggle room for compromise, ideas firmly believed and defended by Christians of all denominations throughout the world and through history, 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 12 pages long. Strongly encourage your kids to read a couple of pages a day with breakfast and write in the margins. **Black Boxes:** discussion starters that occur during the flow of the chapter. The answers are often obvious, but it helps 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. Perhaps use this section as a catechism. **Activities:** Suggestions for full-contact learning, for those who 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; there's only a facade of organization, but a wealth of ideas.

this is one of seven books in the series...

... more **PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES** available or coming soon...

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 Christians have always believed)
7. **pilgrimmometry** (Christianity in today's culture)

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PSSSST! HEY YOU (hay-YUE)

PSSSST! HEY YOU

If you're sure you belong to Jesus already, skip this page. But **if you're not sure**, don't worry, just read this page carefully.

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

Jesus said that he came to "seek and save the lost." Are you lost? Do you know what you're doing here on the planet, or do you wish someone would tell you what's going on? This is big. It's REALLY big. It's stuff you've GOT to know. If you sense a "**tug**" on your heart, either now or later, head for Appendix 2 where you'll find help with taking your first step into the "real world." OK?

INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

INTRODUCTION: Who cares? It's too hard.

In **ORTHODOCTRINES** you'll discover ideas you may never have thought about. They'll become some of your most cherished beliefs. And you'll be in great company.

G.K. Chesterton wrote: "**Everything matters except everything.**" My pastor Ron Ferguson says, "Everything matters except what matters!"



BLAH
BLAH
BLAH

We talk about the weather. We talk about sports. We talk about movies and movie stars.

But we don't talk about life and death and good and evil and right and wrong and heaven and hell. How come? Because it's too hard? Because it matters too much? Well that's silly! If something really **matters**, maybe we OUGHT to be talking about it.

ORTHODOCTINES (OAR-thow-DOK-trenz)

"Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them... Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Timothy 4:15-16 NIV). It says "life and DOCTRINE."

**WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? YOUR LOCAL TEAM? A FAVORITE CELEB? THE LATEST VIDEO GAME? WILL ANY OF THESE SAVE "BOTH YOURSELF AND YOUR HEARERS?"
WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU?**

I remember being young, but I don't ever remember being **clueless**. When I run across important stuff, I take notice and I'll bet you do the same. I guess I've always enjoyed talking about things that matter more than a great TV show. There's a time to get real. Think. Is life a just a pointless carnival ride or a **training ground** for what's coming next?

INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

Everybody loves a swimming pool.

I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO VACATION
AT THE BEACH AND STILL SPEND MOST OF
THEIR TIME SWIMMING AT THE HOTEL
SWIMMING POOL. WHY IS THAT?

We like a swimming pool because we can touch the sides and the bottom. No one wants to be helicopter-dropped in the middle of the ocean. There's such a thing as TOO wide open. We prefer the swimming pool by far because it takes water and puts it in a **box**. Within that box, we feel secure.

Doctrine is like a swimming pool. It takes the great ideas of life and puts them into a sort of box. Of course, we can't put God himself in a box: that's like trying to stuff a tornado into your pocket, but we can take some ideas about him and define some boundaries. God's ideas taken from God's book, the Bible!

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

**CHRISTIANS HOLD
SOME TEACHINGS SO
DEAR THAT THEY'RE
WILLING TO DIE FOR
THEM. DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THESE ARE?
ARE YOU READY TO?**

CHAPTER ONE

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

Where it all starts



God is... God is... is... mmm.

Well? What IS he?!! He's great and good, he's love, he's all powerful and knows everything. But

that still doesn't begin to cover it. Who is God? What is he like? What makes him laugh? Why does he do what he does and doesn't do what we tell him to? We need to know all that CAN be known about God, since knowing him is what life's all about. We need to find out about him. So let's go to the place where there's more info about him than any other place in the world: the Bible. If you don't have a Bible to read, it's hard to know a whole lot about God. Get one and get going. **God is where everything starts.**

ORTHODOCTINES (OAR-thow-DOK-trenz)

God is one. AND God is three. Makes sense, right? Not so much! In our 1st grade math class we knew that 3 does not equal 1, but it DOES when it comes to God.

There's only one God, but he wants us to think of him as three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. If it helps to think of



water as ice, liquid and steam, or an egg as shell, white and yolk, maybe that can keep your brain from exploding. But we don't have to understand it before it's true. This doctrine is known as the TRINITY: God is one and God is three.

CHAPTER 1: THE DOCTRINE OF **GOD**

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one." (Deut. 6:4 NIV) So God is **one**. Jesus prayed to the Father. So the **Father** is God.

"The Son is the EXACT representation of God's being." (Heb. 1:3 NIV) So **Jesus** is God.

"...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19 NIV) So the **Holy Spirit** is God as well.

This, then, is the doctrine of the **Trinity**.

WHAT'S $1+1+1$? 3, SO WE SPEAK OF GOD AS THREE PERSONS. WHAT'S $1 \times 1 \times 1$? 1, SO WE SAY THAT GOD IS NOT 3 SEPARATE GODS, BUT ONLY 1 GOD. IT'S NOT UNDERSTANDABLE, IT'S JUST TRUE!

Does this help to understand Genesis 1 when God says, "Let **us** make man in **our** image?"

We ourselves are body, soul and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23), made in the image of the one God in 3 persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Now you know God better.

ORTHODOCTINES (OAR-thow-DOK-trenz)

Acts 17:24-25 **"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else."** (NIV) John 5:26 **"For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself."** (NIV)



God is the Creator. He doesn't NEED anything or anybody. He existed before the universe was made and he'll exist after it's destroyed. That's why it's **funny** when PEOPLE ask if GOD exists! We might not get the joke, but believe me, God does...

CHAPTER 1: THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

The LORD once told his name to Moses: **“The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.”** (Exodus 34:6 NIV)

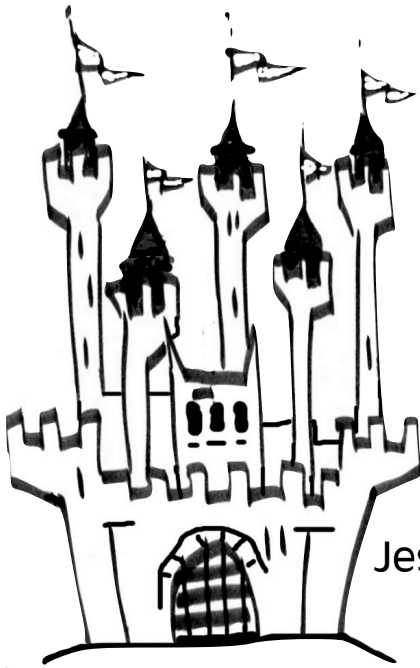
God is perfect, holy, righteous, blameless, compassionate, merciful, pure, good, loving, steadfast, almighty, gracious, ageless, fair, patient, dependable, kind, infallible, long suffering... and that's just for starters.

**GOD IS OMNISCIENT [ALL KNOWING],
OMNIPOTENT [ALL POWERFUL] AND
OMNIPRESENT [ALL EXISTENT, MEANING
HE'S BOUNDLESS AND UNLIMITED]. WHO
ELSE DO YOU KNOW LIKE THAT?**

God created everything else. He's the originator, the “first cause,” the “prime mover.” Heaven, earth, stars, planets, angels, devils, mountains, oceans, plants, animals and people... God created them all.

ORTHODOCTINES (OAR-thow-DOK-trenz)

The 1st person of the Trinity is **God the Father**. His throne is the center of everything. He sent his Son and his Spirit to us to do his will. Jesus said "I can only do what I see my Father doing." The Father is the King of all, the one to whom we pray, unapproachable, incorruptible, the ultimate keeper of the mysteries of time, the final authority of life and death. He is home base, the hub of the seen and unseen universe.



Since God is King, he is King over something, right? Right. The **KINGDOM OF GOD**. You may not know it but the kingdom of this world is at this very moment rebelling against the Kingdom of God. The earth is a war zone. Explains a lot, doesn't it? But the 2nd person of the Trinity, Jesus, won the war on a battlefield called "Skull Hill," A.K.A. Golgotha.

CHAPTER 1: THE DOCTRINE OF **GOD**

“IN MY VISION AT NIGHT I LOOKED, AND THERE BEFORE ME WAS ONE LIKE A SON OF MAN, COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN. HE APPROACHED THE ANCIENT OF DAYS AND WAS LED INTO HIS PRESENCE. HE WAS GIVEN AUTHORITY, GLORY AND SOVEREIGN POWER; ALL PEOPLES, NATIONS AND MEN OF EVERY LANGUAGE WORSHIPED HIM. HIS DOMINION IS AN EVERLASTING DOMINION THAT WILL NOT PASS AWAY, AND HIS KINGDOM IS ONE THAT WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED.”

[DANIEL 7:13&14 NIV]

ORTHODOCTINES (OAR–thow–DOK–trenz)

The 2nd person of the Trinity is God the Son: **Jesus Christ**, whose name means “Savior and Lord,” existing forever, the Word of God, the exact likeness of God the Father, **born of a virgin** (Mary) through the Holy Spirit. God became one of us, which is the doctrine of the **Incarnation** (God becomes a man). 100% God AND 100% human. He came to save us and return us to friendship with God. Jesus never broke God’s laws like we all do. He became a willing sacrifice, suffering our punishment for the wrong things we do. Taking our place, **He died** a gruesome death, and paid for our sins with his lifeblood. And then **he rose** from the dead in a brand new body, not like the “earth suit” we’ve got now, but a body ‘suited’ for the coming heaven and earth. His throne is next to his Father’s throne. It is his Holy Spirit who is always with us. Jesus is **the Judge of the living and the dead**. Do you know him? Page 17 says his Kingdom is forever and ever and ever.

CHAPTER 1: THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

The Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the power of God; especially the power for us to live the kind of life God wants for us. The Holy Spirit helps us turn back to God ("repent"). He leads us into the truth. And, best of all, The Holy Spirit is the refreshing presence of God in our lives.



"The Father will give you another Counselor to be with you forever: the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him: it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you." (John 14:16&17 NIV)

ORTHODOCTINES (OAR-thow-DOK-trenz)

And of course, every kingdom has **the Law** that tells the citizens where they stand with the king. The Kingdom of God is no different.

Right and wrong are not difficult concepts.

The Law is plain to everyone, even here in our messed-up world. It's wrong to kill, to lie, to steal. It's right to love, to serve, to honor truth. There are no excuses. Everyone knows the Law. And worse, everyone breaks it.

**WE HAVE GOD, AND HE IS ONE AND THREE,
WE HAVE GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON,
AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT. WE KNOW GOD
IS THE CREATOR AND WE KNOW WHAT
KIND OF PERSON HE IS. WE KNOW THERE
IS A KINGDOM OF GOD, COMPLETE WITH
LAWS. CAN YOU THINK OF OTHER THINGS
WE JUST LEARNED IN THIS CHAPTER?**

There's a lot more we could learn about God and "where it all starts." Let's keep going!

CHAPTER 1: THE DOCTRINE OF **GOD**

Q&A 1

Q The trinity is a difficult concept: can you think of illustrations to explain what it's like?

Q What is the Kingdom of God and are you surprised that God has a kingdom?

Q Why does God get to say what we should and shouldn't do and how do we hear him?

ORTHODOCTINES (OAR-thow-DOK-trenz)

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

**FATHER, I PRAY IN THE
NAME OF YOUR SON
JESUS THAT I COULD,
BY THE POWER OF
YOUR SPIRIT, LIVE
OBEDIENTLY IN YOUR
KINGDOM TODAY.**