

Book # 7 in the series ...

TOOLBOX BOOKS PRESENTS
LIFE ESSENTIALS IN CHEWABLE FORM



ALIEN- PILGRIMOMETRY

(AY-lee-un-PILL-grim-AH-mu-tree)
Noun: What's left of our Christianity
after it slams into our daily existence...

LIFE-PROVOKING PRINCIPLES 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's taller than he looks in this picture. He enjoys reading books like Treasure Island and Nero Wolfe mysteries and of course J.R.R. Tolkien and CS Lewis. He likes microwave popcorn, hiking, watercolor, musical techno toys, strong coffee, and basketball. He has a B.S. and has done graduate studies in Geological Sciences at the University of Tennessee. For more than 20 years he's been traveling the U.S. ministering the gospel of Jesus using 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 and books for kids, families and tweens available at www.alanroot.com.



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

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ALIEN PILGRIMOMETRY!

written especially for tweens
by the perspicacious and loquacious Alan Root

a•li•en•pil•grim•om•et•ry

[AY-lee-un-PILL-grim-AH-mu-tree]

noun

- 1 *what's left of our Christianity after it slams into our daily existence.*
- 2 *Purposeful evangelism lived out within the gravitational pull of the world system.*
- 3 *Peregrinations in a foreign country.*

We'll use the Scriptures extensively in our study. Why? Here's why: the Bible is the measuring stick of truth. Next to Jesus Christ himself, it's the clearest revelation of truth we have.

The Apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16,

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

NOTE TO TEACHERS (TEE-churz)

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

Schedule: 1 week for the intro and 2 weeks for each of the 5 chapters equals 11 weeks. The last week is a party with a special guest testimony, cake and ice cream. **Daily Readings:** Get a book for each student. Have them write their name in the book and bring it each week. Strongly encourage them to read a couple of pages a day on their own, writing questions and notes in the large margins.

Each chapter has: **Black Boxes:** These help with class discussion and to get those marvelous brains working.

Q&A: Have your kids pencil in their own answers. Then check the first appendix for what I thought the answers were. This is great stuff for weekly review. And **PRAYER:** To let the kids "own" the transformational ideas they just studied. In the appendix are **Activities:** Suggestions for full-contact kinetic learning. **Going Deeper:** Some kids will be sufficiently challenged by what's in the chapters, but some will want to dig deeper. Send them to Appendix 4 and ask them to tell the whole class what they find there.

Other terrific books for tweens in the toolbox books series:

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. **Alienpilgrimometry** (*Christianity in today's culture*)

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PSSSST! HEY YOU (hay-YUE)

PSSSST! HEY YOU

If you're sure you've surrendered your life to Jesus, skip this page. But if you're NOT so sure, I suggest you read this page very carefully. It's a matter of life and death.

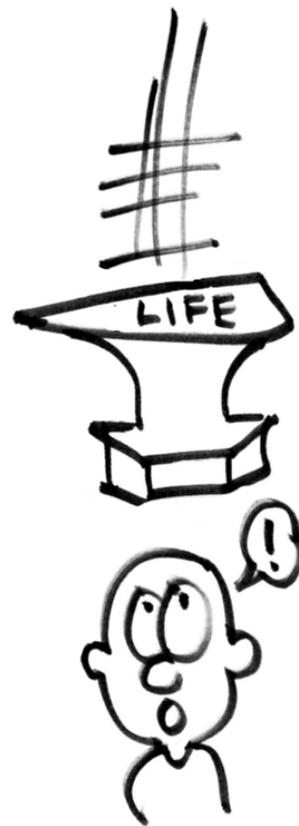
*EVER HAD TO LEAVE SOMEONE'S HOUSE
BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T PART OF THEIR
FAMILY? THE PROBLEM'S NOT THAT THEY
DON'T LIKE YOU - IT'S JUST THAT YOU
DIDN'T BELONG THERE. BYE BYE.*

How do you "belong" in this world? Easy. You were **born**. How will you "belong" in the next world? You'll have to be **born again**. And it has to happen now. Today's the day. Obey the command of Jesus to follow him and be born again. Head for **page 76** where you'll find stuff that will help you make your first step into the actual "real world." Alright?

INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

ALIENPILGRIMOMETRY is what's left of our Christianity when it slams into our daily existence. We're strangers in a foreign land.

When I'm reading my Bible or worshiping the Lord on Sunday or praying as I walk along, I feel strong in my faith. **But then the rest of my life happens.** It seems that a lot goes on during the day that pushes back against my faith in Christ. Stuff like lies, depression, conflict, uncertainty, weirdness, temptation, boredom, incompetence, cynicism, craziness, fear, bullying, misunderstandings, meanness, mistakes, sadness, chaos, disappointment... well, you get the picture.



Where's my faith in Jesus when the rest of my life happens? It's important to find out.

ALIENPILGRIMOMETRY (AY-lee-un-PILL-grim-AH-mu-tree)

Psalms 84:5 says, "**Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.**" A pilgrim is someone who's on a journey to a destination that's so important it takes first place over everything else. The pilgrim travels with a purpose. The pilgrim is dialed-in. Focused.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD PEOPLE COME UP TO YOU AND ASK YOU WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT YOUR LIFE? SHOULD THEY?

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world..." (Romans 12:2) Did you know that **Christians are not citizens of the world?** We used to go along with the rebellious ways of this world, but now we're nonconformists! Oddballs. Kooks. Freaks. Terrestrial heretics. Strange and different. Do people notice that you and I belong to Jesus? Well? If we do our job, they will.

INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

“By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward... he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.” (Hebrews 11:24-27)

Moses resolved to **give up** the privileges of earthly royalty for the joy of following God. Turning his back on the worldly kingdom of Pharaoh, he lived a life of service to God and to others. His citizenship was transferred to another place. It's never easy to leave the comfort of home. Until you find out that it's not your real home! Moses chose something infinitely more permanent than anything on this old earth: God's house and God's family.

ALIENPILGRIMOMETRY (AY-lee-un-PILL-grim-AH-mu-tree)

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

I want to learn to
live in this world
as a citizen of the
Kingdom of God. I
want to follow Jesus
as an alien on this
planet earth.

CHAPTER ONE

THE ALIENS HAVE LANDED
what's wrong with you anyway?

"By faith Abraham made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country... For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God." (Hebrews 11:9-10)

Something remarkable is going on. All of us "remember" a place that we've never seen.

Deep down we yearn for that land where everything is just as it should be. C.S. Lewis calls it "the far off country."

Every great story you've ever heard is merely an echo of that one great story. The far off country exists for real. And buddy, this world "ain't" it.



ALIENPILGRIMOMETRY (AY-lee-un-PILL-grim-AH-mu-tree)

Did anyone ever sit you down and say, "Don't cheat to get ahead?" No one did with me, but I've always known not to do that. So how do I know? Not from hanging out with people from THIS planet! Everywhere you look, people are breaking in line somewhere, trying to get something for nothing. BUT even cheaters KNOW that what they're doing is wrong: they explain that there's a special reason they HAVE to cheat this one time. Everyone seems to know the same rules. Is it because there's a place where the rules are for real? "Far off country" anyone?



CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF ODDNESS

Morality is not up for grabs. Somehow, we all know right and wrong. There's an imprint of God's righteousness in every culture and society around the globe and throughout history. Murder, stealing, lying? We all know they're wrong. Loyalty, sacrifice, service? We all know they're right and good. Hmm.

CAN YOU IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE IT'S OK TO CHEAT ON TESTS, STEAL PETS, AND BEAT UP OLD LADIES? WHY NOT? SOME DO THESE THINGS. DOES THAT MAKE IT OK?

"Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world... my kingdom is from another place.'" (John 18:36) There **is a Kingdom of Light. Romans 14:17 says, In that kingdom, there's righteousness, peace, and joy. In that place, everything is exactly as it oughta be. That's home. That's where our citizenship is registered. That's where we're headed.**

ALIENPILGRIMOMETRY (AY-lee-un-PILL-grim-AH-mu-tree)

When we speak of “the world” in this book, we’re not talking about mountains and oceans and birds. We’re talking about a kingdom of darkness. A “world **system**.”



“And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down: that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” (Revelation 12:7-9)

Something stinks. You've smelled it. Our world has gone over to the dark side.

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF **ODDNESS**

That's why, as children of God, we're weird. We're stuck on a rebel planet. It's OK, though. Jesus knows what's wrong and how to fix it.

***EVER WALK INTO THE WRONG BATHROOM?
HOW DID YOU FEEL? HOW DID YOU REACT?
THINK HARD. DOES THIS WORLD FEEL LIKE
HOME TO YOU? OR DOES IT FEEL WEIRD?***

“[My disciples] are not of the world any more than I am.” (John 17:14) **“If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own... but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”** (John 15:19) As followers of Jesus, we should never be surprised to be **hated** by the world system. It's a promise from God.

“In this world you will have trouble.” (John 16:33) If we don't belong to the world, the world has a way of letting us know.

ALIENPILGRIMOMETRY (AY-lee-un-PILL-grim-AH-mu-tree)

“He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.” (Colossians 1:13) The world system is an empire. A kingdom. A domain. Satan rules it, and the whole world knuckles under, know it or not.

“We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.” (1 John 5:19) The world system is a culture. A way of thinking and behaving. A community that teaches and enforces conformity to certain ideas.

“Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.” (1 Peter 2:11) The world exploits the un-surrendered parts of our own lives. Our lousy habits, our misguided life choices and shady influences. We must learn to walk by faith like the people of Hebrews 11. Read on.

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF **ODDNESS**

"All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them."

Hebrews 11:13-16

ALIENPILGRIMOMETRY (AY-lee-un-PILL-grim-AH-mu-tree)

What a picture of Alienpilgrimometry we get from the scripture on page 17! Those people were faithful to Jesus all their lives, living in this world as "aliens and strangers." They were yearning for the far off country. And they were longing for the city of God, a place more real than what they had down here. God can work with people like that.

And remember Moses from page 9? Same thing. Instead of getting snug and happy in this world, he came to understand that the world-to-come is the only world worth living for. And when that understanding dawns, our purpose in this life becomes clear: live as Jesus lived. Nothing here is forever except for the souls of those we meet. Each of us has a crucial choice to make: where will we spend forever? Either with God, or without him. Joshua pointed the people of Israel to God and said, "**Choose this day whom you will serve!**" (Joshua 24:15)

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF ODDNESS

When we accepted God's invitation to trust and obey, we became misfits, the odd people. Have you ever carried an umbrella on a sunny day because you knew for sure it was gonna pour down rain? Everyone is laughing at you until the large drops begin to pelt down hard. Then everyone is wishing they had your foresight, as well as your umbrella. Jesus is the umbrella God gave us to carry. It may look like a sunny day right now, but the storm is surely coming and we're prepared. But we DO look odd for the moment...



ALIENPILGRIMOMETRY (AY-lee-un-PILL-grim-AH-mu-tree)

“If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.” (John 15:19)

HAS ANYONE TRIED TO MAKE YOUR LIFE MISERABLE FOR BELIEVING IN JESUS? DID YOU WONDER WHAT WAS GOING ON? HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF IT AS CONFIRMATION OF YOUR FAITH IN JESUS?

We're aliens. Sojourners. Pilgrims. Strangers. We're those who've surrendered their lives to Jesus. Those who live with a purpose. We have a contest to win. A battle to fight. A life to live well. A race to run. How 'bout it? **“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.”** (Hebrews 12:1-2) Bingo.

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF **ODDNESS**

Q&A 1

Q What is the far off country? How can we know about a place we've never seen?

Q What is the "world system?" Mountains, trees and birds? Or is it a spiritual domain?

Q How does our faith in Jesus affect our status as citizens of the world?

ALIENPILGRIMOMETRY (AY-lee-un-PILL-grim-AH-mu-tree)

PRAYER (be sure to say it your own way)

Jesus, I want to live
the way you lived
when you were here
on earth. I know
that will make me
odd, and I'm fine
with that.