

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

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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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.