

Discipleship Resources for Children in Africa : Rooted in Jesus Junior

**TRAIN a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from
it.**

Proverbs 22.6

Rooted in Jesus is a practical discipleship programme for adults first developed for use in Tanzania, and now in use in 42 dioceses/denominations in 14 African countries (see [Witness6.7](#) December 2011, or visit www.rootedinjesus.net). Responding to the need for similar material for young people, who in many African countries constitute a high proportion of the total population, we have now developed a Junior version for use with children and young people aged 8-16.

Rooted in Jesus Junior is based on the first two books of the adult course and is designed to be used in Sunday Schools or confirmation classes; it is already being used in schools and orphanages as well. Each lesson includes simple interactive activities using commonly available materials, and the only additional resource required is a Bible.

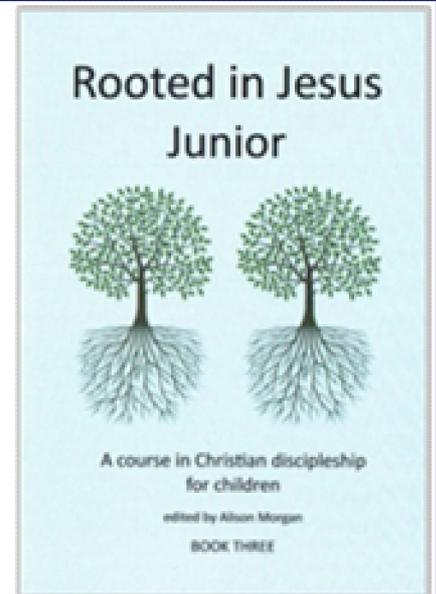
Initial feedback from the Junior programme is encouraging. Pastors report that the number of children in their churches is increasing, that children are becoming Christians, that children are beginning to minister actively to others. Sunday School teachers report that the programme is strengthening their own faith, that they can't stop the children praying, that their work with children has been transformed. Parents have said that they see their children changing, and that now they are being taught the Christian faith "just as the Muslim children are taught in the madrassahs."



Canon James Almasi and Revd Carlos Marcus, Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania write: "Rooted in Jesus has transformed our work with children; it is changing our church; teachers and children are enthusiastic for Jesus. It has taught us how to support and help our children grow in the Christian faith. Children do not miss Sunday School now. We are helping children really grow in their faith. This is a new experience for us and it is good for us. *Rooted in Jesus* has given us a curriculum."



Jonathan Rendall, ex head teacher and diocesan schools adviser and now the coordinator for the Junior programme, writes: *Rooted in Jesus Junior* continues the high standard of writing, content, progression and cultural appropriateness inherited from the adult course, and provides a tool to use in the Christian education and discipleship of children. It became very clear that the trial of *Rooted in Jesus Junior* had had a significant impact on the learning, on the prayer, on the enthusiasm of children for Jesus, in their faith and for church, and thus in the numbers of children attending church in both the parishes. The teachers spoke clearly of the impact of *Junior* in their own Christian lives, in their Bible reading, in the teamwork as teachers and in the teaching itself with the children. Parents too had expressed their delight in having *Junior* as a part of the work of the parish."



Edited by Alison Morgan, working with Nicky Plumbley (UK) and Lauren Wicks (South Africa), *Rooted in Jesus Junior* was piloted in the Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania, and in the Quality Discipleship network of churches in Uganda. Like the full course, *Rooted in Jesus Junior* is published by [ReSource](#) and introduced through a training conference run by experienced teachers and ministers who offer a combination of spiritual guidance and practical training. For more information visit www.rootedinjesus.net/Junior.

Revd Dr Alison Morgan,
ReSource, UK, April 2012.



Photos by Alison Morgan and
Nicky Plumbley.