

## E264 Questions & Answers about Children with Albinism (Albinos)

Brought to you by Every Child Ministries

A Christian NGO bringing hope to “the forgotten children of Africa”

Because CHILDREN are any nation’s greatest resource—

A precious treasure from God!

### 1. Photo of an albino child

## **Do you know someone called an albino?**

- Even though they were born in Africa from African parents, their skin is white or pink. Their hair is yellow, & their eyes are pink.
- Have you ever wondered about this? What have you wanted to know?

*(Teacher, give children a chance to respond if they will, acknowledging their responses in a positive way.)*

2. **Photos of black person & an albino**

## **What is albinism?**

- Albinism is an inherited trait.
- All people inherit certain traits from their parents and other ancestors before their parents.
- Some inherited traits are being tall or short, thin or large, having curly hair or straight hair, having dark or light skin, and many more.

### **3. Chart of dominant & recessive traits (AA, bb, etc.)**

## **Why do people have different colors of skin?**

- Some traits are stronger than others and are likely to show up more often. These are called dominant traits.
- For example, from the same parents, more children are born with darker skin than with lighter skin. If one parent has darker skin & another lighter skin, most of the children are likely to have darker skin. Dark skin is a dominant trait.
- Other traits are not as strong, and are likely to show up less often. These are called recessive traits.
- For example, lighter skin is a recessive trait. If one parent has darker skin and another lighter skin, a few of the children will probably have lighter skin. Light skin is a recessive trait.

4. **Picture of black mother with albino child on her shoulders**

**Since albinism is inherited, how can two black parents have an albino child?**

- Two black parents can have an albino child because albinism is a recessive trait. It doesn't show up as often as dark skin, but it does show up sometimes.
- A black parent can carry the recessive trait without showing up or making him albino. But if that parent marries someone who also carries the recessive trait, then some of their children might be albino.

#### 5. Photos of albino children in family with other children

### **What makes people's skin different colors?**

- Normally all people, black people, brown people, white people—all people—have a pigment or coloring in their skin.
- This coloring is called melanin.
- All people have the same kind of melanin or coloring, but some have much more, making their skin darker, and some have less making their skin lighter.
- This melanin or coloring is a great blessing from God because it protects our skin and eyes from being damaged easily by the sun.

**6. Albino children—pink eyes & albino child at eye doctor**

## **Why do albino children have trouble seeing?**

- Albino children have an inherited condition called albinism.
- Albinism is a set of inherited conditions or certain recessive traits.
- Those conditions include not having pigment or melanin in the skin, hair and eyes.
- This makes their skin very light colored.
- It makes their eyes very sensitive to light.
- Usually, some other things are also different about the eyes of albinos, so often they have poor eyesight.

**7. Albinos—Skin with many sores**

## **Why do albinos get sores so easily?**

- Albinos do not have melanin in their skin to protect it against the sun.
- That is why they burn easily.
- That is why they often get sores on their skin so easily.

## 8. Written questions

### **Is albinism a disease? Are albinos sick?**

- No. No, albinism is not a disease.
- It is not caused by germs or viruses.
- It is not carried or passed from person to person by germs or viruses.
- Albinism cannot be passed on to others by touching or anything like that.
- The child is not sick.
- He did not “catch” albinism like you might “catch” an infectious disease.
- Albinism has nothing to do with sickness. It is just a set of inherited conditions some children are born with.



### 9. Child touching an albino

## Is it safe to touch albinos?

- Yes, it is absolutely safe. Albino children are no different from others except for the color of their skin.
- Since albinism is not an illness, it is perfectly safe to touch albinos just as you would anyone else.
- Touching an albino will not make you sick.
- It will not make you become an albino.
- It will not make you have albino children someday.
- Touching albinos like you would touch your other friends is good. It shows you like them and accept them. It is a sign of friendship.
- So if you know someone who is an albino, go ahead & shake their hand. That's a good thing to do.

**10. Eating with an albino**

**Is it safe to buy food from an albino? Is it safe to eat food prepared by one? Is it safe to eat with an albino?**

- Yes, absolutely. It is safe.
- The albino is not sick just because he is albino.
- No germs or viruses or parasites of any kind are involved in albinism.
- Albinism is simply a set of inherited characteristics.
- Would you ask if it is safe to buy food from someone who is tall? Or someone who is short?
- Yes, it is absolutely safe.

## **11. Witch doctor**

### **Is albinism a curse? Is it caused by a curse?**

- No, albinism is not a curse, and it is not the result of a curse.
- Albinism is simply a certain set of genetic or inherited conditions.
- The Bible teaches that all children are a blessing from God and a reward to families, so albino children are a blessing from God, just like others.
- The albino child can develop normally.
- The albino children can bring great blessing both to his family and to his whole community and to the world.

**12. Pregnant woman**

**Does it bring a curse if a woman who is pregnant looks at an albino?**

- No. Looking at another person cannot affect the growth of her child in the womb of the mother.
- Looking at an albino or at anything else does not affect the growth of the baby.
- It is perfectly safe.

**13. Person looking sad or ashamed**

**Is it a shame to have an albino child?**

- No, it is no shame. All children are a blessing from God.
- An albino child looks different from others, but the birth of an albino child implies nothing shameful on the part of the parents. It does not mean they have done something wrong.
- A child is always a blessing.

#### 14. Feet, hands

### **Do albinos have magical powers? Do their body parts have powers to cure people?**

- No, albinos are simply people like others.
- There is nothing magical about them or about any part of their bodies.
- Body parts of albinos have no special powers.
- People who practice magic just like to make money by deceiving the public, telling them these lies.
- In 2007, witch doctors in Tanzania discovered they could make money out of this lie. This led to the murder of many albinos, but no one was cured.

### 15-Albino woman

## **Can sick people get cured by having sex with an albino?**

- No. This is a lie. Having sex with an albino does not cure anything.
- In Zimbabwe some people think that having sex with an albino will cure AIDS. There is no truth in this belief.
- Albino women suffer from being raped and end up getting AIDS from these men.
- People who are sick should get medical help and prayer.

**Albino child in school, albino child in corner**

**Are albinos mentally retarded or slow?**

- No, albinos are not mentally deficient in any way.
- They have a normal range of intelligence just like others and can be very smart.
- Albinos have become leaders in business, entertainment & many other fields.
- The color of their skin does not affect their intelligence in any way.



**Numbers & letters on chalkboards****Why do some albinos have problems learning?**

- If an albino child seems slow to learn, parents should first check for vision problems.
- The child may not be able to see the blackboard in class, or see to read well, and this could make it difficult to learn.
- Often children with albinism have do have difficulty distinguishing fine details. This can make it hard for them to read and do math.
- But, where they can be helped to see what they are trying to learn, albinos can do well at these subjects and all others as well.

**Albino getting professional eye exam, magnifying glass**

**If these suggestions don't seem to help an albino's eyesight, what can he do?**

- His family can have him checked by a doctor who specializes in eyesight.
- Sometimes different kinds of glasses can help, but they can't be just any glasses. They have to be made for the person's eyes.
- Some albinos can use hand-held magnifiers for reading.
- Albinos can help to protect their eyes from further damage by wearing dark glasses when they are in the sun.

## Sunglasses

### **Do the sunglasses need to be specially made for the albino's eyes?**

- Ordinary sunglasses can help many albinos by protecting their sensitive eyes from the damaging rays of the sun.
- They should always wear dark glasses outside.
- Of course, dark glasses do not improve vision, but they are very useful in protecting the eyes so that bright sunlight does not cause further damage.
- They also give a great sense of relief, since bright sunlight is extremely painful to the eyes of an albino.
- Some can be worn over prescription glasses which do improve the sight.

**Albino boy & girl**

**Who is affected by albinism more, boys or girls?**

- Both are affected equally.
- About half of albinos are male, and half are female.

## **Albino Animals**

### **Is albinism only present in Africa?**

- Albinism is present in every population on earth, but it is more prevalent in Africa and certainly more noticeable amongst populations of dark color.
- Even animals can be albinos. Some are very beautiful, don't you think so?

**Families with some albino children & some black children**

## **If parents have one albino child, will all their children be albino?**

- Not necessarily.
- If both parents carry the recessive gene for albinism, there is a one-in-four chance that their child will have albinism.
- Many families have one or more albino children as well as one or more children who have darker skin.
- Even with twins, one child can be albino and the other child black.

## Chart of ages people can live

### **How long can an albino live?**

- An albino can live a normal life span, providing he does not get cancer from exposing his unprotected skin to the sun's rays.
- There is one particular type of albinism called however, which is often accompanied by a bleeding disorder which can affect the lungs and digestive system and can lead to shortened lifespan.
- Many albinos can live a normal lifespan, however.
- Albinism by itself does not cause death.
- In addition to the normal rules for good health, albinos need to cover their sensitive skin as much as possible when out in the sun.
- Hats with brims that cover the ears and shade the eyes will help. Long sleeves will help, too.

**Albino mother and child**

## **Can albinos get married and have children?**

- Yes, albinos are normal in this way.
- They are capable of reproducing and are capable of caring for a home and a family.
- They only need special protection from the sun.
- However, they should marry someone who understands albinism. Many people have foolish fears of albinos, but their fears have no basis in fact.



**25-29 Albinos of accomplishment (5 pages)****What will become of an albino? What kind of life can there be for them?**

- Albinos have achieved success in many areas of life.
- Did you know that one of the emperors of Japan was an albino?
- Did you know that several famous actors, comedians, and musicians have been albinos?
- Did you know that fashion models, international businessmen, and outstanding educators have been albinos?
- Their success depends on their individual effort and the support of their families and communities. The same is true for all of us.

Because of their sensitivity to the sun, indoor work is preferred for children with albinism. There are many kinds of indoor work that are very valuable to the community and that pay well.

**30-Pictures of beautiful birds.****Does God really care about albinos? Does albinism mean that God has forsaken that child?**

- God cares about all His creation.
- The Bible says that not even a sparrow, a small bird, falls to the ground without the Father's knowledge. Jesus said we are of much more value than birds.
- Jesus said that even the flowers of the field are in His care (Matthew 6:26 & 28).
- God loves each person regardless of any conditions or even disabilities they may have. "For God so loved the world (that means everybody) that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him (that means anybody), should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).
- God loves variety. Look at all the colors of the flowers. Red, orange, pink, yellow, blue, purple, and some pure white. He made people in a variety of colors, too. He loves all the people He has made. He loves albinos.

**31-Albino girl**

To Discuss with the children:

**If you know an albino, how should you treat that person? Why?**

**How will you treat albinos differently from now on?**

Every Child Ministries Uganda  
PO Box 28080 Kampala  
[ecmuganda@gmail.com](mailto:ecmuganda@gmail.com)  
[www.ecmafrica.org](http://www.ecmafrica.org)

