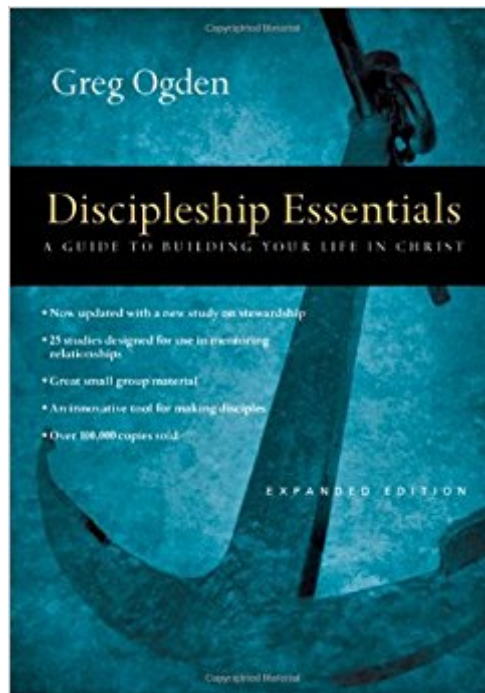


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# Discipleship Essentials: A Guide To Building Your Life In Christ



## Synopsis

A 2014 ECPA Christian Book Award Finalist Discover the fullness of life in Christ. We grow in Christ as we seek him together. Jesus' own pattern of disciple-making was to be intimately involved with others and allow life to rub against life. By gathering in twos or threes to study the Bible and encourage one another, we most closely follow Jesus' example with the twelve disciples. This workbook by Greg Ogden is a tool designed to help you follow this pattern Jesus drew for us. Working through it will deepen your knowledge of essential Christian teaching and strengthen your faith. Each week contains the following elements: a core truth presented in a question-answer format a memory verse and accompanying study a field-tested inductive Bible study a reading on the theme for the week questions to draw out key principles in the reading This material is designed for groups of three. It has also been used successfully as an individual study program, a one-on-one discipling tool and small group curriculum. Jesus had a big enough vision to think small. Focusing on a few did not limit his influence. Rather, it expanded it. Discipleship Essentials is designed to help us influence others as Jesus did--by investing in a few. Second edition includes a new foreword by the author. These studies are for both individuals and groups.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"I have long admired Greg Ogden's rare ability to distill the complex down to the essential.

Discipleship Essentials has become a modern classic in the field of discipleship because it does just this. If you've ever looked for a tool to help people you care about understand the core principles

and practices of the Christian life, look no further than this book. I have seen it help absolute beginners and advanced disciples alike mature in their walk with Christ in a life-changing way. The book is interactive, thought-provoking, enjoyable and deep. I use it weekly myself." (Daniel Meyer, senior pastor, Christ Church of Oak Brook, Illinois)"If you're looking for a shortcut to the likeness of Christ, stop looking because there isn't one. No program or structure can replace the hard, time-consuming, rewarding and utterly fulfilling process of discipleship. Discipleship Essentials is revolutionizing the lives of the people in our church. Everyone can and should use this effective tool!" (Jan den Ouden, minister-at-large, OM International, Rotterdam)"Our entire congregation used Discipleship Essentials as the template for a yearlong sermon and small group series. It served as a life-changing tool that united our church family and deepened our faith as a community. Ogden's work is thorough, organized and challenging. It is a great resource for churches and small groups who desire to grow in their love for the Lord and their commitment to following him." (Rev. Jane Filkin, associate pastor of community life, First Presbyterian Church, Boulder, Colorado)"I am currently leading my fourth group. The study is a Spirit-inspired study of the skeletal structure of our Christian faith upon which individuals can flesh out the shape of their individual walk with our Lord. If taken seriously and followed as a spiritual discipline, the truths it contains will change the follower's life, and lives that come in contact with the disciple will be touched by God's love. It's a powerful tool in a group for learning to practice confession and being accountable. It is never old for me. The Spirit speaks to me through the Word in the study. I am refreshed every time we meet as a group." (Hudson Staffield, president, Chi Rho Ministry)"Greg Ogden's engaging book sets the expectation that every follower of Jesus has the joyful responsibility to invest into two or three regularly and purposefully for the kingdom. For the past ten years, Discipleship Essentials has provided an engaging and balanced approach to the task of raising up mature believers who will then themselves invest in others. I can only imagine that in the next ten years thousands more will be shaped toward maturity because of his important work that gives each believer the inspiration and the framework to do what they were made to do: advance the kingdom by making mature disciples." (Rev. Timothy J. Yee, minister of young adults, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, California)"One of the most serious challenges facing the church in North America is that of undisciplined church members. Greg Ogden's work seeks to move Sunday-only consumer Christians into the adventurous life of following Jesus on a daily basis in authentic community. It provides an indispensable resource to help local churches address this challenge." (Eddie Gibbs, professor, Fuller Theological Seminary and author of ChurchNext)"Discipleship Essentials is the most effective tool I know of for use in encouraging actual growth in personal discipleship. I give it to all of the

pastors I am working with in congregational transformation and missional engagement because growing disciples is essential to their congregations' vitality." (E. Stanley Ott, president, The Vital Churches Institute)

IVP: Describe in your own words the meaning of discipleship. Greg Ogden: Discipleship is the process whereby our lives are conformed to the image of Christ or we go through the metamorphosis of constant rebirth so that we are dying to self while Christ's life is coming alive in us. It's akin to the transformation that occurs when the caterpillar spins the cocoon and out comes a butterfly. Paul talks about discipleship as continuously putting off the old life while putting in its place the new life in Christ. It is like taking off an old set of garments and being re-dressed in righteousness and holiness. It is truly a makeover from the inside out. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Greg Ogden has done a good job with this book. It is for small group study about discipling. It is set up in a similar manner to a Sunday School quarterly, which I think is acceptable since Sunday School would be one of the target markets for the text. The book itself is slightly oversized. The cover artwork is attractive, the text font is easy to read, and the pages have plenty of white space for a nice aesthetic for the interior. The book lacks an index. This might not be a major issue for small groups, but it is a negative from the scholarly angle. This lack of an index is why I deducted a star; I consider this a major flaw as I am coming from an academic point of view, and I think even small groups could benefit from an index. 25 sections deals with one-on-one and small group discipling: how to be and help others be more like Christ. Memory verses, questions, and short articles, generally 4-5 pages each, combine to create a viable small group study. Ogden has laid out the material in a clear way that is easy to understand. Of course, how the study plays out will vary from group to group, but I think Ogden has achieved his purpose of creating a manual providing a good overview of discipleship and its importance in the Christian life. This book is highly recommended for small group and one-on-one discipling. This is not the best book for scholarly study on the subject, but it does have some value in this area as the basics of the theme are well-covered and technical terms explained. Overall, Ogden has written a worthy book.

given to a prison inmate for teaching. He has begun teaching and no negative feedback from him.

Light on the "hands on" aspects, but covers the concepts of discipleship well. The most useful thing

to me is understanding that the concepts discussed in the book will be very foreign to a new disciple, even if they are "old hat" information for us. I'm going through the book in a group setting. That helps a lot since you find that people read the same material differently, depending on their history and views.

Should have read this in my teens

I use this workbook as a tool to lead others to knowing more about their Christian faith in a small group setting (3-4 people). You do not have to be a teacher to use this material. It is a great tool for new and well seasoned Christians alike. It explains Christian concepts in a very good format. It helps new Christians to understand their faith and it reminds seasoned Christians of things they may have forgotten. It also is helpful in that it gives you a renewed confidence to share your faith with others. I highly recommend this workbook for every Christian - no matter where you are in your walk with the Lord.

Great tool for discipleship. Goes deep and doesn't feel like it's trying to lead your thoughts, like in other books. Five Stars Greg!

very happy with this product. Will buy again!

The format of the book is great. I've enjoyed the readings along with the questions. Each question creates good conversation.

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