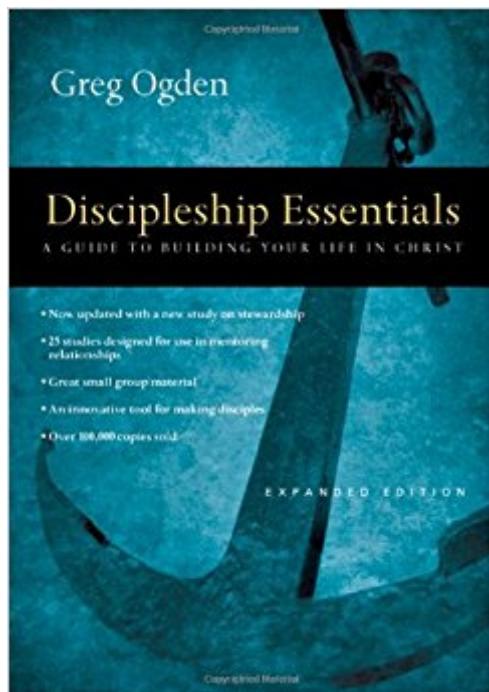


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Discipleship Essentials: A Guide To Building Your Life In Christ



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.

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Customer Reviews

I have used this workbook with men one on one; in a triad; and in a group of four. In all three groups the participants have enjoyed the study, the group time, and have gone on to make more disciples by using the book to disciple others. As a pastor and life Coach I have used this tool for a few years

now, and still think it's the best tool to get Christians together and grounded in the Christian basics - theologically, philosophically, and with a Christo-centric focus for all of life. In Ogden's own words he says he designed this discipleship workbook as a tool to accomplish these three elements to create a climate for the Holy Spirit to bring accelerated growth: 1) "The first element is the unchanging truth of God's word" (each chapter contains a core truth based on a memory verse, and includes an inductive bible study with discussion questions based on the passage for study, discussion, and application). 2) "The second element in the Holy Spirit's laboratory is transparent relationships... Transformation occurs when we grapple with the truth of God's Word in the context of transparent relationships. It is a biblical axiom that the Holy Spirit will have free sway in our lives to the extent to which we open ourselves up to one another. Honesty with God is not sufficient. We give God permission to reshape our lives when we risk self-evaluation and confession to others. We can't grow in Christ by ourselves. We are people made for community" (each chapter has a selected reading after the inductive Bible study on the topic of discussion - these selections are short and very good). 3) "The third element that creates the climate for transformation is mutual accountability... Accountability means giving your discipling partners authority to call you to keep the commitments you have made to one another." The book includes 25 Chapters and takes about 2-4 hours to work through between the lesson and discussion time (it goes faster if everyone works on their lesson first - my recommendation). Here is how the lessons are arranged: Part One: Growing Up In Christ (C1 Making Disciples; C2 Being a Disciple; C3 Quiet Time; C4 Bible Study; C5 Prayer; and C6 Worship) Part Two: Understanding the Message of Christ (C7 The Three-Person God; C8 Made in God's Image; C9 Sin; C10 Grace; C11 Redemption; C12 Justification; C13 Adoption) Part Three: Becoming Like Christ (C14 Filled with the Holy Spirit; C15 Fruit of the Holy Spirit; C16 Trust; C17 Love; C18 Justice; C19 Witness) Part Four: Serving Christ (C20 The Church; C21 Ministry Gifts; C22 Spiritual Warfare; C23 Walking in Obedience; C24 Sharing the Wealth; C25 Money - and the Appendix on Building a Discipleship Ministry) In meeting with several different groups (and counting) I have found all three of the above elements taking place. This book fosters deep theological discussion, fosters healthy accountability, and leads to numerous new Christ-like habits that benefit the individuals in the discipleship group, and the lives that they touch on a daily basis. I have seen more effective discipleship multiplication using this workbook than any other tool I've tried. I highly recommend it!

The philosophy/theology behind this workbook is in Ogden's Transformed Discipleship - a must read for leaders considering using this workbook. The workbook is excellent, covering the basics.

But a caution is necessary. If it is treated like a Sunday School, fill-in-the-blanks, assignment, transformation is unlikely. Read the questions carefully. Reflect on them. Ask God to reveal to you how to answer from your heart. If you do, you will become a disciple. Living out Christianity is not "purpose" driven but "process" driven: Matt 28:19-20 declares the process is "make disciples" . . . this workbook is the teaching component of that. Go, now, make disciples.

After years of various approaches to disciplemaking, I was so excited to first read Greg Ogden's "Transforming Discipleship" which then led me to this work, "Discipleship Essentials," a 24 week curriculum for disciplemaking. Our church is using it in groups of three or four who upon completion prayerfully enlist their own "triad" to go through the material with. It can take as long as a year, but for the first time we are seeing genuine multiplication take place. Get both books and get started today!

I've seen my students leaders barf on various kinds of discipleship "materials" over the years. This is the only discipleship "stuff" that they have really loved and been impressed by (re: because it's well written & and written at a college-level). I love it because it's lead foot is "making disciples" ...it's got the right DNA. Daniel Curran The Bay Area Campus Ministry * Campus Crusade for Christ

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.

Rather lengthy, but well worth it. Excellent for new or maturing believers. We managed to average a lesson a week and finish in about exactly one year. Designed to be done in a triad(group of 3). I First did it with a larger group of 7, with 5 making it to the end. It was difficult to keep the group focused and meetings took much longer. Later did with 5 and enjoyed it much better, but recommend as the book does to try to do it with just 3. Currently doing it with one other, and wish we had a third.

Excellent resource for new believers and the many of us who have accumulated head knowledge but not awareness of our personal discipleship -- great tool.

I am using this book in a small group study with established church members ranging in age from late 20's to early 80's. So far it has held their interest, the first study to have done so in seven years of ministry. The theology is well-balanced with a strong evangelical undertone.

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