

Essential Guide to  
Becoming a Disciple  
Eight Sessions for Mentoring and Discipleship



*Essential Guide to Becoming a Disciple: Eight Sessions for Mentoring and Discipleship*  
Available November 2016  
\$15, 112 pages, paperback  
978-0-8308-1149-6

Following the popular and effective design of his curriculum *Discipleship Essentials*, which sold over 250,000 copies, Greg Ogden has included the following elements in each of the eight sessions in his latest book:

- a core truth
- a Bible study
- a reading
- life application

Whether you are mentoring one-on-one or in a small group, this essential guide will serve as an ideal on-ramp into the discipleship journey.

## From the Author of *Discipleship Essentials*

What motivated this study? For the past thirty years I have been meeting with men in small groups of three or four for the express purpose of growing together as faithful followers of Christ. Of all the responsibilities that I have carried as a pastor, nothing has been more satisfying than the life shared in these groups. After our time together I have consistently said to myself, "What an honor it is to share the joys and challenges in these men's lives. Where else would we have the freedom to be as real as we were today?"

My underlying motivation for creating these groups was to address the persistent need I had observed. Jesus painted a verbal picture about the importance of a solid foundation when he said that houses built upon rock can withstand the stormy times whereas houses built upon sand are washed away (Matthew 7:24-27). Jesus is the rock on which to build our lives, but as I have walked with people in these groups I have witnessed the cracks and missing building blocks in their foundation. Even as my concern to help others build their lives on Jesus grew, I realized that I did not have a building plan. I was constantly scrambling to cobble together various resources to address different issues. To fill in the gaps I wrote *Discipleship Essentials: A Guide to Building Your Life in Christ*. This was my attempt to cover a broad spectrum of what makes up the underpinnings of the Christian life.

Yet I still had the nagging sense that something more was needed. As I looked at the Christian community through the lens of my pastoral leadership, I saw so many people who said they were Christians but were not defined by that label. Many of these people had made a profession of faith in Christ that was meaningful to them, but being a disciple of Jesus was not their identity.

I wondered how we could engage those who have received the benefits of forgiveness in Christ to consider what it actually means to follow him. What if there was an on-ramp that clarifies what Jesus expects of his followers? What if there was a short study that helped more people to consider Jesus as their lifelong mentor and Lord?

It dawned on me that the Great Commission, given by Jesus to the apostles (Matthew 28:18-20), was not just the trumpet call for evangelism but also contained the answers to my questions. This short study of eight sessions is designed to be that on-ramp to a journey of following Jesus Christ all of our days. Once the decision is made to identify ourselves as his disciples, then we can go on to lay the foundational building blocks of a life in Christ.

– Taken from "A Word from the Author"

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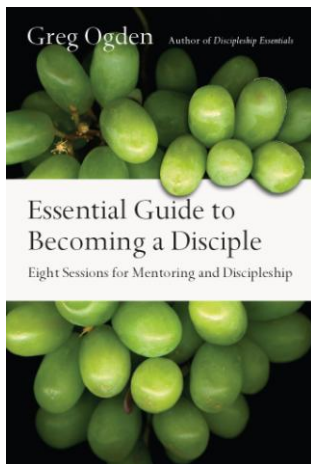
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[gregogden.com](http://gregogden.com)

## Greg Ogden and the Essentials Set

Greg Ogden (DMin, Fuller Theological Seminary) recently retired from professional church leadership and now lives out his passion of speaking, teaching, and writing about the disciple-making mission of the church. Most recently Greg served as executive pastor of discipleship at Christ Church of Oak Brook in the Chicago western suburbs. From 1998–2002, Greg held the positions of director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Fuller Theological Seminary and associate professor of lay equipping and discipleship.

Prior to teaching at Fuller, Greg enjoyed twenty-four years in pastoral ministry, primarily within Presbyterian churches, but also as senior pastor at the Saratoga Federated Church in Silicon Valley, California. While there, he developed a discipleship program used by over 15,000 people, resulting in his book *Discipleship Essentials* and eventually the Essentials Set, which includes these books by Ogden:

- *Discipleship Essentials: A Guide to Building Your Life in Christ* has sold more than 250,000 copies. This groundbreaking discipleship workbook is a tool designed to help you follow the pattern of disciple-making Jesus drew for us. This material is designed for groups of three, but has been used successfully as an individual study program, a one-on-one discipling tool, and small group curriculum.
- In *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time* Ogden introduces his vision for discipleship, emphasizing that solutions will not be found in large-scale, finely-tuned, resource-heavy programs. Instead Ogden recovers Jesus' method of accomplishing life change by investing in just a few people at a time. And he shows how discipleship can become a self-replicating process with ongoing impact from generation to generation.
- *The Essential Commandment: A Disciple's Guide to Loving God and Others* is a practical, in-depth handbook that draws from Ogden's years of pastoral experience training and discipling others to help us truly be changed by Christ into people who love God and love others with all that we are.
- In *Leadership Essentials: Shaping Vision, Multiplying Influence, Defining Character* Ogden teams up with Daniel Meyer to offer a preparation tool for those who would be led and shaped by Christ to lead others with strength and wisdom.

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