

## **Multiplication Month - Week 1: LEARN**

Over the next four weeks, churches throughout EFC-ER will be participating in “Multiplication Month” as a means of celebrating, promoting, and praying for church planting throughout our region. Following the outline of “Learn,” “Pray,” “Give,” and “Go,” we will be taking time in our service each week to focus on Jesus’ great call to go and make disciples.

When you hear about “church planting” or “starting new churches,” you might picture purchasing a new building, or holding a large worship gathering, or doing a community service project. Those things may happen, but they are not the heart of what it means to plant or start a new church. The heart of the matter is this: we invite people to follow Jesus, and then we help those new disciples gather in new communities we call churches.

The “how” we invite and gather might look really different from place to place. Even so, each new church will have some common needs. They need us to believe making and gathering disciples is a priority. They need us to pray with them and for them. They need someone willing to go. And they need each of us, as individuals and as existing churches, to buy into our common mission and vision of working together to invite people to Jesus and help them form new communities of believers.

The call of Jesus to His disciples in Matthew 28 to “go into all the world” is *our* call. This call to make disciples, to teach, and to baptize is a call that should be embraced by everyone who follows Jesus. Not everyone is called or equipped to be a church planter, but we are all called to be a part of multiplying disciples and churches in our neighborhoods and communities by praying, giving, sending, or going.

Why plant new churches? Because people need Jesus! The harvest is ready. We just need workers. We need leaders to raise up and disciple other leaders. We need pastors who are willing to send out their best and brightest people to launch new works. We need brave men and women who are willing to do a hard thing, to accept a challenging mission, and to obey the call of Christ to “go” into new neighborhoods, new cities, and even other countries.

Why? Because the mission isn’t completed yet. Jesus still tarries, and there are still lost people who are waiting on us to join Jesus in his willingness to leave the ninety-nine to find the one. We must answer this call to plant new churches because God is stirring this in our hearts as Evangelical Friends and our reasonable response must be to obey.

This first Sunday of Multiplication Month is simply an opportunity for us to start a conversation about the importance of making disciples through church planting. We will hear more about current EFC-ER church planting projects and how we can be involved over the next several weeks. If you would like to learn more about EFC-ER’s pathway for church planting or hear stories from those who are involved in church planting, visit the EFC-ER website at:

[www.efcer.org/church-planting](http://www.efcer.org/church-planting).