

## **Multiplication Month – Week 4: GO**

Throughout the last few weeks, we have talked about the need for churches like ours and people like you to be part of the biblical command to make disciples by planting new churches.

We started with the basics – what is church planting? Why should we plant new churches; why does this matter?

We talked about the importance of prayer in church planting, and how we want to be a congregation that prays often and with intentionality for our EFC-ER church planters.

We talked about how we can use the resources God has given us by giving of our time, energy, and finances to church planting movements.

But, of course, there is one major step we haven't talked about as much yet. Yes, we're called to learn, pray, and give. But we're also called to *go*.

Jesus instructed his disciples in the Great Commission to “go and make disciples,” and then he got more specific in Acts 1: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” This command can't be lived out passively. It can't be lived out from the comfort of your seat on Sunday morning. When Jesus tells us to go, it requires an active response.

The early church became very adept at church planting, but I'm not sure that this was any easier for them than it is for us. Think about Paul. In the space of just a few chapters in the book of Acts, he goes from miraculously receiving a vision and putting his trust in Jesus, to committing to share the gospel with others, to going to Antioch to help lead the church plant there, to setting sail on missionary journeys around the known world to preach the Word of God.

I can't imagine any of that was easy for him. He had to leave behind home, family, friends – everything he knew. He had to shift the way of thinking that had defined his entire life. And yet, he went because he knew Jesus had called him to go. He has called us to go too.

Today is an opportunity for us as a church and you as an individual to respond to that call in an active way.

If you sense God's leading to take a next step in exploring your own involvement in church planting either as a church planter or as part of a church planting team, please fill out a Response Form by scanning the QR code on the screen so that someone from the EFC-ER Multiplication Team can reach out to you.