



**WHERE ARE
THE BABY TREES?
I Killed Them!**

An aerial photograph of a brick church with a prominent white steeple. The church has a gabled roof and a small portico over the entrance. To the right of the church is a paved parking lot with several marked spaces. A white car is parked on the left side of the church. The background shows residential houses and trees. The entire image is framed by a teal, jagged border.

**WHERE ARE
THE BABIES?**

An aerial photograph of a brick church with a prominent white steeple topped with a cross. The church has a small portico with white columns over the entrance. To the right of the church is a paved parking lot with several empty spaces. The church is surrounded by trees and residential houses in the background. The entire image is framed by a dark blue border with a teal, jagged, star-like shape on the left and right sides.

**WHERE ARE
THE "NEW" DISCIPLES?**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20



Disciple Makers

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?



A disciple of Jesus is one that follows Jesus with the intent to help others follow Jesus

**A disciple of Jesus is also a disciple maker for Jesus
(A Reproducer)**

DISCIPLESHIP ACTIONS

Go, Baptize and Teach

I am supposed to Go!

I am supposed to Baptize!

I am supposed to Teach!

But in our shaping the church we have changed the mission because intentionally or not, we changed the verbs



GO BECOMES COME

**When I say the word outreach most of us
associate it with the action of inviting
people to come to the building and
attend a worship service**

**We put up a building and we
advertise you Come to us**

They can only Come Certain Times

They can only Come Certain Way

**Before I come to Jesus, I must figure out how
to Come to Church**



GO BECOMES COME

We know Jesus is the way the truth and the life, but the worship service becomes the entry point to that life.

He's the gate but we become gate keepers

He is the good shepherd, but we decide who is and is not a sheep and who does or does not become one



BAPTIZE BECOMES LEARN

But in Jesus' model baptism was THE connecting point

In our model when somebody new comes, our methodology is to get them into a class not a relationship



Most of what we teach is not about finding Jesus, but instead about living for Jesus

That makes sense because our teaching is designed for people in the church

BAPTIZE BECOMES LEARN

What this means is for a person that does come, they don't get a direct path

They kind of must wade around a bit through churchdom and maybe after a if they stay, they will learn enough to figure it out on their own or at least ask the right questions.



TEACH BECOMES SERVE

For now, we sort of moved the teach under learn to step two

We now have an empty action, we make one up that is mentioned in the Bible but not in Jesus' commission

The goal becomes keep them coming so we can get them learning so eventually they can serve which is usually connected with doing something at the building to benefit the growth of the church.



GET THEM TO STAY

If they just come on somewhat of a of a regular basis, or have a history of coming in the past, we check
The disciple box

We want to keep them coming so they count

We may overlook the make a connection with Jesus idea, its complicate
you need to know more **just keep coming**



GET THEM TO STAY

Teach them to obey, well we do not want to offend them, they may not comeback, we'll just water things down a bit. (**Just Keep Coming!**)

We even break our own model and go away from serve and say just sit – **but just keep coming**

Come to Church (Occasionally)



MEASURING GROWTH

If the numbers coming go up, we have “grown” in making disciples

Unfortunately, those growth measurements are got fatter and taller **(bigger)**

It does not mean baby trees it just means more tree for me to take care of



SEEING THE CHANGES

**No baby trees
that is the
obvious one**



SEEING THE CHANGES

In the Jesus model I go but, in our model, you come

**In the Jesus model I baptize
in our model you must learn**

**In the Jesus model I teach in
our model you serve**

**In the Jesus model the disciples are
responsible for making disciples**

**In our model the unbelievers are responsible for
becoming a disciple**



WHY DID WE CHANGE THE MISSION?



A photograph of a house with a large evergreen tree in the yard, framed by a decorative teal border. The house has light-colored siding and a dark roof. The tree is tall and conical. The text "We want a" is in red, and "A TREE FOR ME!" is in light blue with a black outline.

We want a
A TREE FOR ME!

JESUS COMMISSIONED

a self-perpetuating forest for Him

