



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
R O C H E S T E R

Sermon Discussion Guide
March 3, 2024

Refresh

Read Ephesians 4:11 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

Discuss

When you hear the term “church growth,” what comes to mind? How has our understanding been informed by the culture of evangelical Christianity in the USA?

Why do you think many evangelical Christians today primarily focus on budget, attendance, and building programs when they talk about church growth today? What are the dangers of focusing on these things when talking about church growth?

Why is Matthew 16:18 so critical to our understanding of church growth? What does this verse help us to understand as it relates to the growth of the church? How should it humble us as believers?

What does Sinclair Ferguson mean when he describes the gifts in Ephesians 4:11 as “word gifts”? How are each of these connected to the Word of God?

What was unique about the roles and purposes of apostles and prophets in the establishment of the church in the first century? Why does it seem that these “word gifts” have ceased to be given by God to the church today?

Have you ever met someone who was a gifted evangelist? How was their giftedness evident to you? What problems arise if the church delegates all evangelism to those who have been uniquely gifted? In what ways has the New Testament called all believers to be evangelizing unbelievers around us?