

SUNDAY TO SATURDAY

CURATED TOPICS FOR A DISILLUSIONED CHURCH



POLICING / Guided learning path: Media preference

A LITURGICAL PRAYER

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- *The Book of Common Prayer*

Sunday to Saturday is a Christian collaborative who have a passion for curating topics for a disillusioned church.

On the web at SundaytoSaturday.com

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START HERE: *Whether you prefer to watch, to listen, or to read about a subject here are our recommendations for each media type. Before you begin, read our framework on page 3 to prepare your mind and heart before engaging in the topic. Scan the QDR code in the top right corner to engage with this learning path online.*

Like to watch?

SHOW: Flint Town | An intimate, engaging eight part series focusing on the Flint Police Department (Michigan) that shows the policing from all sides, the police, the public that supports them, the public that doesn't support them, the politicians that support them and don't support them, and everyone in-between.

WATCH: Policing the Police (2016) | Policing the Police (2020) | A fascinating, deep dive into the Newark, New Jersey police department and the challenges it faces with policies, mistrust, the stress of the job and the changes the police department is going through.

Like to listen?

PODCAST: Changing Policing Culture From the Inside Out | For over a decade police officers **Ernie Stevens** and **Joe Smarro** have been part of the San Antonio Police Department's Mental Health Unit. In thousands of interactions with people in various states of mental health crisis they have used force only one time.

PODCAST: Where the Gospel Meets Law Enforcement and Ethnicity | Co-hosts **Jesse Eubanks** and **Rachel Szabo** weave commentary from protestors and police while exploring the history of law and order and the evangelical community. For Christians, it is not either being for protestors or for police, but a third way that is having compassion for the police while seeking justice.

Like to read?

□ [ARTICLE: White, Black and Blue: Christians Disagree Over Policing](#) | Poll after poll shows that the majority of white evangelicals say that police treat black and white Americans the same despite the majority of black Protestants saying police treat white and black Americans vastly different. Why does the white evangelical church not believe the black protestant church? **Bonnie Kristian** lists four reasons why.

□ [ARTICLE: Empathize With Good Cops In This Time of Calling Out Bad Ones](#) | Taking a nuanced view leads to tension and oftentimes that tension is where we Christians need to be. Author **Randy Alcorn** says that, “just as bad cops deserve to be condemned and prosecuted, good cops deserve to be praised and commended.” We couldn’t agree more.

Like a good book?

□ [BOOK: The End of Policing](#) | From rising homelessness that the police are tasked to deal with to shootings of both minorities and police officers to endless mental health issues involving both police officers and the population American police are simply expected to do too much. Author **Alex Vitale** argues that the structure of American policing, and the U.S. legal system, protects the interests of those in power and/or with money and needs to be dismantled. Simply put, Americans need to rethink the mission of the police and how we police those within the borders of the United States.

Like a good sermon?

□ [SERMON: Does the Bible Say Anything About Policing?](#) | At first glance the Bible may not have a lot to say about policing, but after learning that Roman soldiers served as a police force in Biblical times verses such as Luke 3:14 and Romans 13 take on a new meaning. Pastors **Keith Simon** and **Patrick Miller**, using chapter 2 from **Esau McCaulley’s** book *Reading While Black* as a reference, engage in a nuanced conversation about defining what policing is, the mission of police officers, governmental authority, accountability and more.

THE SUNDAY TO SATURDAY FRAMEWORK

[Our framework](#) begins with the foundational doctrine of the Imago Dei (Gen. 1:27) - that humans are unique and created in the image of God. This doctrine of respect and dignity permeates every step of Sunday to Saturday's approach to learning about a topic.

When this doctrine is applied, it forces us into tension, which then requires nuance. This tension and nuance manifests itself in a both/and worldview as opposed to an either/or worldview. For example, you can be an advocate for the police and for police reform.

The framework consists of four stages/steps: pray, learn, pause, and engage.

These four stages are not fixed and you will move back and forth from one stage to the other throughout your life. You may stay in one stage for months or even years. At other times it may be a blend of multiple stages.

The colors of each step are specifically chosen to correspond to liturgical colors. Pray and pause are purple -- purple represents preparation. Learn and engage are green -- green represents growth. Gold represents glory.



THE STAGES

1. **PRAY:** Each topic begins with a liturgical prayer that we find useful when engaging with that particular subject. When you pray, ask God to soften your heart and sharpen your mind.

GUIDING VERSE: Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. -- Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

2. **LEARN:** Knowledge is power. We have already spent hundreds of hours curating content – use our [guided learning paths](#), [five questions](#), and [learning capsules](#) as starting points on your journey.

GUIDING VERSE: Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance. -- Proverbs 1:5 (NIV)

3. **PAUSE:** It is important to stop, pray, and reflect on what you have learned. Pausing should be done after each piece of media you consume, but it is also useful to stop every few weeks or months to take a break, rest, and reflect.

GUIDING VERSE: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight. -- Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

4. **ENGAGE:** When you feel ready, engage with neighbors, family and friends - but do not rush into this step. Know that you are going to mess up, that doesn't mean quitting, that means adjusting and probably moving back into steps 1-3 before moving back to step 4.

GUIDING VERSE: Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. -- James 1:22-25 (NIV)