



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.

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START HERE: *The following are resources that complement each other and help one deepen an understanding about an aspect of a topic. 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.*

Embed with cops:

- 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.

- PODCAST: Policing with Chief Allen Banks** | In a sincere, hopeful conversation, Round Rock (Texas) police chief **Allen Banks** discusses implementation of community policing in Round Rock and why the police shouldn't be the first responders for everything. Other topics include policing training, diversity in police hiring, and how to create equitable and safe communities. If you want to know how a community is changing policing right now, then this is the podcast for you.

Learn some history:

- MOVIE: LA 92** | At first glance LA 92 is a history lesson about the 1992 Los Angeles violence, but just below the surface is a warning and a call for Americans to wake up. For hundreds of years Black people and people of color have complained about police brutality and, unfortunately, most of the time white people have ignored or dismissed the calls for help or justice. This indifference and callousness combined with other issues such as high unemployment, underfunded schools, and aggressive policing tactics has led to frustration which manifests itself in violence.

- ARTICLE: What is Policing and How Do We Reform It** | Although on the long side this article has it all. It is a fantastic starting point to learn about policing history, what police reforms to advocate for along with a personal story that ties it all together. Ultimately it is up to us to decide whether we want a police force that "enforce(s) every law on the

books by identifying and punishing any infraction” or one that “help(s) to maintain community standards of public safety and order.”

Educate yourself about reforming policing:

- [TALK: Policing Needs to Change. Trust Me. I'm A Cop.](#) | Police officer **Renee Mitchell** tells a story where she had to choose between appeasing her superior by arresting an individual or letting the individual go and putting her career in jeopardy and how that decision cemented the idea that the way we police in America has to change.
- [ARTICLE: How Can We Enhance Police Accountability in the United States?](#) | Every forty hours a Black man is killed in America by police. The seemingly endless onslaught of violence against Black bodies makes it readily apparent that there must be changes to the policing culture. Author **Rashawn Ray** says there are two reforms we should make to change police accountability. One, officers fired for police misconduct should not be allowed to work in law enforcement again and two, we should restructure civilian payouts by moving them from taxpayer money to police department insurance policies.
- [SHOW: United Shades of America: Defund 101](#) | A short, two-minute explanation of what one theory of defunding the police means. This is the type of “defunding” that we can support.

Meet Ernie & Joe:

- [MOVIE: Ernie & Joe: Crisis Cops](#) | On average police officers in academies across the United States spend 60 hours learning how to shoot a gun while spending just eight hours on mental health and communication – **Ernie Stevens** and **Joe Smarro** want to change that. Ernie and Joe: Crisis Cops provides an intimate look at the partners and best friends as they respond to mental health calls for the San Antonio Police Department’s Mental Health Unit, provide training to their fellow policemen, and navigate everyday life.
- [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.

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)

<https://sundaytosaturday.com/guided-learning-paths-policing/>