

SUNDAY TO SATURDAY

CURATED TOPICS FOR A DISILLUSIONED CHURCH

GUNS/GUN VIOLENCE / Guided learning path: Essentials

A LITURGICAL PRAYER

In the face of fear, be our Protector and Provider. Give us a strong sense of ultimate security in you, God. Teach our hearts to desire your kingdom above any earthly security.

- Prayer from *The Liturgy of Politics*, Kaitlyn Schiess



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: Our favorite resources for learning about policing – if there is one item to watch, to listen to or read, you will find it below. Before you begin read our framework on page 3 to prepare your mind and heart before engaging in the topic.

Scan the QDR code below the liturgical prayer to engage with this learning path online.

If you read one article:

[ARTICLE: It's Not a Gun Problem, It's a Heart Problem](#) | In a well-reasoned, succinct article, professor of philosophy at Eastern Kentucky University **Michael W. Austin** lists four reasons why the common argument, “Guns don’t kill people, people kill people,” is fallacious.

If you listen to one podcast:

[PODCAST: Pacifists and Packers](#) | Co-hosts **Ameen Hudson** and **Kevin Burgess** (KB) engage in a genuine, thoughtful conversation with pastor **Keas Keasler** as they try to answer the question, “As followers of Jesus, is it okay to carry a gun?”

If you watch one movie:

[MOVIE: 91%](#) | 91% of Americans support universal background checks on all gun sales, so why did a 2013 bipartisan bill with presidential support fail in the U.S. Senate? Why did universal background check bills in 2015 and 2016 fail as well? 91% examines the influence and tactics the NRA uses in American politics to block universal background check measures and other gun reform laws.

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<https://sundaytosaturday.com/guided-learning-paths-guns-gun-violence/>

If you watch one show:

SHOW: Gun Violence: An American Epidemic? | The United States has more guns, more firearm suicides, more mass shootings, and more gun-related deaths than any similarly developed nation in the world. How did we get here? And what three solutions could effectively reduce gun violence by 29%? ABC News answers those questions in just 11 minutes.

If you listen to one sermon:

SERMON: On Gun Violence – A Pro-Life Issue | In his characteristic passionate, engaging style, activist **Shane Claiborne** frames gun violence as a pro- life issue for Christians.

If you read one book:

BOOK: Children Under Fire | We have read many books on gun violence– one that details a prophetic Christian call towards gun violence (*Beating Guns*), one that tells a personal shooting survivor’s story (*When Thoughts and Prayers Aren’t Enough*), and one that details the enormous mental, economic, and physical cost of gun violence (*Collateral Damage*). *Children Under Fire* carves a different path by telling the heartbreaking, intimate stories of two seven-year-old children, **Ava Olsen** and **Tyshaun McPhatter**, who form a profound friendship after being deeply traumatized by gun violence.

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)