

# SUNDAY TO SATURDAY

CURATED TOPICS FOR A DISILLUSIONED CHURCH

## GUNS/GUN VIOLENCE / Guided learning path: Pairings

### 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.

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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 under the liturgical prayer to engage with this learning path online.*

### **Personal stories:**

**SHOW: Quiet No More** | In a moving 27-minutes Quiet No More tells the story of reverend **Sharon Risher**'s process of dealing with her anger and her journey to forgiveness. In 2015 she lost three family members after a white supremacist murdered nine people at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

**BOOK: When Thoughts and Prayers Aren't Enough** | In *When Thoughts and Prayers Aren't Enough* **Taylor Schumann** graciously invites readers into her personal and private thoughts during and after a shooting that destroyed her right hand and required numerous surgeries, leaving her with 20% use of her hand along with chronic pain. Her vulnerable writing doesn't hide the anger, confusion, frustration, pain, and trauma she still deals with. She becomes addicted to pain medication, struggles with survivor's guilt, and battles depression. Her entire world is upended by being shot and she is one of the "lucky" ones that survived a gun incident.

**MOVIE: The Armor of Light** | One is a minister and one is a mother. Both are Christians. *The Armor of Light* chronicles the journey of pastor **Rob Schenck** and mother **Lucy McBath** from being silent about gun violence to devoting their lives to talking about gun violence within and outside of the church.

### **Different views:**

**SHOW: Gospel and Guns** | In Louisville, Kentucky, a church holds a service where guns are given away in a raffle. In Charleston, South Carolina, the family of victims of the Charleston mass shooting in 2015 choose to forgive the gunman. In Apopka, Florida, a gun-manufacturer makes rifles with Psalm 144:1 engraved on the gun. Which one looks like Christ to you?

□ [PODCAST: Is America's Gun Culture a Blessing or a Curse?](#) | Host **Skye Jethani** and columnist **David French** role model what it is like to have a conversation from a shared Christian background, but disagree on specific policies. The insightful conversation touches on red flag laws, suicide and guns, the right to self-defense, and whether it is a good or bad thing to have concealed carry permits. With good faith arguments made on both sides, their conversation will make you think thoughtfully about the gun debate. Skip to 32:38 to get to the interview.

□ [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?”

### **The NRA:**

□ [SHOW: NRA Under Fire](#) | NRA Under Fire takes a look at the transformation of the NRA from an organization focusing on teaching gun safety to a group primarily concerned with gun rights. The film details the tactics used by the NRA against gun legislation, how the NRA has been so successful at blocking gun legislation for decades, and the battle between the NRA and politicians who want to introduce gun legislation.

□ [PODCAST: Christians, Guns and the Mass Shooting Epidemic](#) | Journalist **Kirsten Powers** begins the podcast with a personal story about the aggressive nature of the National Rifle Association (NRA) before she and co-host **Jonathan Merritt** critique the organization for putting partisanship and profits over life. The duo aptly point out the hypocrisy in some pro-gun arguments made in bad faith such as it's not a gun problem, it's a mental health problem, and the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.

□ [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.

### **What does the Bible say:**

□ [ARTICLE: It's a Heart Problem, Not a Gun Problem? Maybe You're Right...](#) | Following the San Bernardino shooting in December of 2015, pastor **Drew Tucker** penned this heartfelt post in which he acknowledges that, within the gun debate, it is a heart problem— a heart problem where we continue to harden our hearts and do not make any meaningful change no matter the cost.

□ [BOOK: Beating Guns](#) | Some say it's a gun problem. Some say it's a heart problem. Authors **Shane Claiborne** and **Michael Martin** say it's both. Each day in the United States, 105 people die from gun violence. Once every 30 minutes, a person commits suicide with a gun. Eighty percent of all firearm deaths in developed countries occur in the United States, and eighty-seven percent of all child related gun deaths in the world's developed countries occur in the US. Despite the alarming statistics, Beating Guns was not penned to shock or shame. It's a call for Christians to prophetically stand against violence and lead the way toward gun reform.

□ [PODCAST: White Supremacy, Guns and Mass Shootings](#) | Co-hosts **Mike Erre**, **Timothy Stafford**, and **Bonnie Lewis** knock it out of the park as they detail three ways Christians should not respond to mass shootings, but quickly pivot to the ways Christians must be different in how we approach tragedy.

□ [SERMON: Biblical and Moral Reasons for People of Faith to Speak Up and Act to Stop Gun Violence](#) | In a moving sermon pastor **James Atwood** draws a straight line between how many Christians viewed slavery before the Civil War to how many Christians currently view and react to gun violence. He says many Christians say gun violence has nothing to do with ethics, it has nothing to do with morality, and nothing to do with spirituality. That gun violence is a political issue and we should just stay out of it.

## 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)

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