

# SUNDAY TO SATURDAY

CURATED TOPICS FOR A DISILLUSIONED CHURCH

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

### 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 Christian media for the body of the church.

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**START HERE:** *Whether you have 15 minutes, one hour or more we have the resource for you. 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.*

### **Have 15 minutes?**

[READ: F\\*ck You, I Like Guns](#) | No sugar coating or platitudes here as Army veteran Anastasia Bernoulli passionately lays out why civilians don't need to own military-grade rifles. This article contains some swearing.

[WATCH: 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.

[READ: Gun Statistics](#) | From mass shooting trackers to grades for states' gun laws here are several websites to dig into American gun statistics.

### **Have 30 minutes?**

[LISTEN: Lament the Violent](#) | Framing the conversation within the Sermon on the Mount and Psalm 22, pastor **Mark Davis** of St. Mark Presbyterian (Newport Beach, CA) says we must recognize all violence is a sin and acknowledge the oftentimes persistent role of fear within the human experience. Second, as Christians, we must recognize that we have a civic duty and a spiritual duty. At times, those two things are in agreement, while at other times, they are not. Last, within the realm of the gun violence conversation, our starting point should be the cross, not the Second Amendment.

[WATCH: 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.

### **Have an 1 hour?**

**[WATCH/LISTEN: 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.

**[LISTEN: Force for Good?](#)** | Addressing policing, racism, and guns, co-hosts **Chris Ridgeway** and **Adam Graber** take a look at guns from a technological perspective and attempt to answer the question– are guns a technological force for good? If they are or are not, what are the implications for Christians?

**[WATCH: Trigger – The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence](#)** | *Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence* narrates the personal stories of trauma physicians, police, and shooting survivors of all ages, genders, and races as they grapple with the effects of gun violence from the West Coast to the East Coast.

### **Want a deep dive?**

**[READ: Common Ground](#)** | Some books on gun reform lean heavily on statistics, others choose a personal story, while others blend the two. *Common Ground* takes a different path. Penned for small group settings, but useful for the individual as well, author **Donald Gaffney**'s focus is teaching people how to talk about guns and gun violence. In the preface, he lays out three rules — confidentiality, trust, and respectful dialogue — that all small groups should use to keep the discussion civil and polite. While not everyone will agree with each other, it is essential everyone treats each other with dignity and respect.

**[READ: Collateral Damage](#)** | Pastor **James Atwood**, who passed away in 2020, called gun violence the most important theological issue for the American church. He is rooted in the belief that all humans are created in the image of God and from Mark 12:28-34 where Jesus says the most important commandment is to love God and love your neighbor. Atwood says you cannot love God and not love your neighbor, they are fundamentally connected. *Collateral Damage* is a prophetic call for the church to get involved and not remain silent when 40,000 fellow image bearers are being killed each year while hundreds of thousands more are psychologically and emotionally damaged from the effects of 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)