



Explaining the News to Our Kids

Resources to help you talk to your kids about the CT shooting.

Stunned.

I was sitting here making final plans for our Christmas Pageant when I saw the news about the horrific shooting in Connecticut. I was stopped cold in my tracks and my mind reeled at the violence and loss. My thoughts then shifted to my own children, as well as to the children and students who make this church their home. In the face of such senseless violence I feel afraid powerlessness. We all do.

Over the coming days and weeks the stories and news accounts from this devastating event will be unavoidable. I wanted to point you to a resource that may be helpful as you talk to your children about the events of today. Take moment to read the entire article from Common Sense Media, and think about the conversations you might have with your kids.

Keep the news away.

We have such a strong desire to stay plugged in to every development and new detail when a tragic event like this occurs. For those of you with children under seven, actively think about how you will keep your children from seeing the news as much as possible. If you sense that strong desire to keep returning to the news, use it as an impetus to pray until you can watch the news after your children are asleep.

Answer the question that are asked.

For kids 8 years and older, the most important thing is to carefully consider your child's maturity and temperament before talking to them about the news. When you do engage your children in this keep your answers clear and do not make generalizations or assumptions since most kids at this age will take what you say as fact.

Pray with your children.

When children do hear this horrible story, please pray with them. Bring God's presence into your conversation about this shooting. Let your child pray first if they are so inclined and then echo the sentiment of their prayer.

I would also like to direct you to the "Fred Rogers Company" where they have a video of Fred Rogers talking to parents about speaking to children about tragic events in the news. [I highly encourage you to visit their website and read the article.](#)

Finally, there are so many scriptures we can turn to in moments like this. We can find comfort in the fact that "nothing separates us from the love of God." And the violence of today hasn't changed that. We worship a God who knows mourning and has felt first hand the evil and violence that people are capable of. But the violence and evil of today is not the end of the story. With justice and grace God will restore His kingdom.\