

# TV Violence and You

You've had a long, hard day doing school work. Now it's time to relax and watch your favorite afternoon television shows. You can hardly wait to see what will happen to your favorite characters. So, you sit with your eyes glued to the TV set. It's easy to spend several hours watching shows before you know it, isn't it? Have you ever thought about what you watch? Think about this for a minute.

How much violence do you see on TV? Violent acts include hitting, shoving, hurting someone with a weapon, or destroying property. How does it make you feel when you see violent acts on TV?

Some kids might think it's cool when a person beats up someone. They might even want to do the same thing, just to be cool. But is violence really cool? God doesn't think so. Proverbs 6:16-19 lists seven things that God hates. One of them is "hands that shed innocent blood." That's another way of saying that God does not like people to be violent. Jesus didn't like violence either. Once, Peter pulled out a sword to defend Jesus from soldiers. But Jesus told him to put it away (Matthew 26:52). Violence wasn't the answer.

So when you see violence on TV, remember how God feels about it. Also remember that what we watch can affect the way we think and act. That's why God wants us to think about good things (Philippians 4:8). The next time your favorite shows come on, count the number of violent acts it has. Decide if you think God would want you to watch (or do) something else.

An average American child will see 8,000 murders and more than 1,000,000 acts of violence on TV before he or she is in the seventh grade.

"Do no wrong and do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, or the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place" (Jeremiah 22:3).

Kids' TV shows now have more than 30 acts of violence per hour--an all-time high.

Over 3,000 studies show that repeated viewing of violence can cause violent behavior. It also can make us think that violence is normal.

"For your violence against your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever" (Obadiah 1:10).

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a limit of 1 to 2 hours per day of TV viewing.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7).

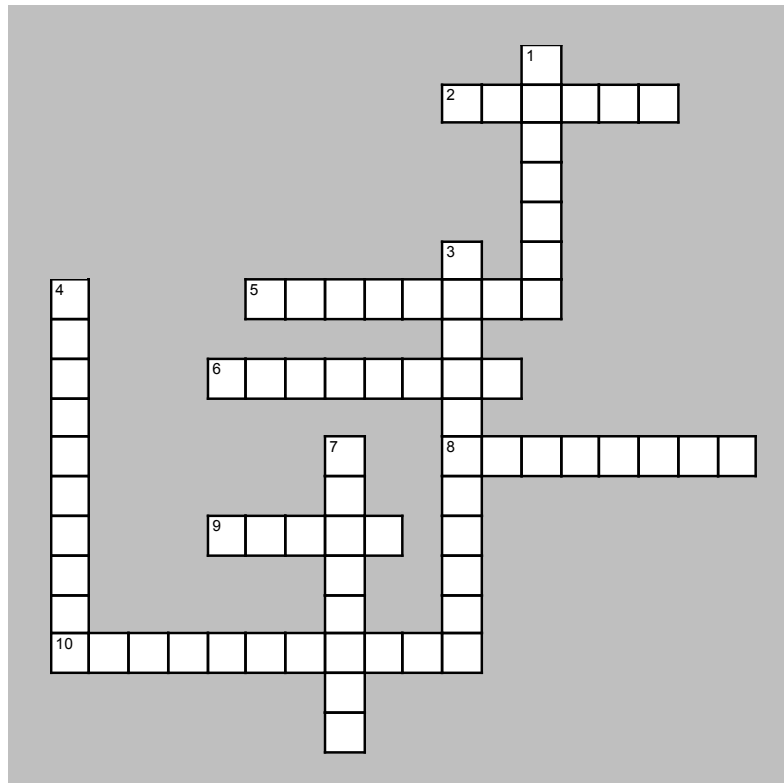
Many TV shows solve everyone's problems in less than 30 minutes. But problems aren't always solved so quickly in real life.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9).

By: Garry K. Brantley

# TV Violence and You

## Crossword Puzzle



### Across

2. About how many violent acts does the average children's show have per hour?
5. God hates hands that shed \_\_\_\_\_ blood. (Proverbs 6:16-19)
6. "For your \_\_\_\_\_ against your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off from your people" (Obadiah 1:10).
8. "Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7).
9. Peter pulled out a \_\_\_\_\_ to defend Jesus.
10. God wants us to think on \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. (Philippians 4:8)

### Down

1. What kind of act involves hitting, shoving, or hurting someone?
3. "Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they shall be called the sons of God" (Matthew 5:9).
4. Before a child gets to the seventh grade, he will have seen at least how many violent acts on TV?
7. What book is this in? "Do no wrong and do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, or the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place."