

Session Three  
Chapter 4 in *The Violence Project*  
October 30, 2022

“Eighty percent of all mass shooters in our database were in a state of crisis in the minutes, hours, days, or weeks prior to committing their shootings.” (p. 54)

What is the correlation between crises and mass shootings? Describe the balloon analogy the authors use? Have you ever experienced such a phenomenon, albeit with less violent outcomes?

“Mental illness and hatred pull the trigger. Not the gun.” (p. 59)

In what ways is this statement accurate and in what ways is it unhelpful when it comes to understanding and addressing the subject of mass shootings and how to end them?

From what you have read so far, who/what pulls the trigger in acts of mass shootings?

What is the difference between *psychotic* and *psychopathic* and why is it an important one to make when talking about mass violence?

What was your reaction to Molly’s story? (p. 63ff)

How does this story change what you think of when you think of a mass shooter?

Have you ever been in a situation where you have deescalated a tense situation? What worked well? What would you have done differently after reading this chapter?

Let’s take a look at the four-step model for crisis intervention (p. 66).

What did you learn from this?

Can you think of examples in church where having crisis intervention skills like these might come in handy?

Aaron Stark TED Talk—In what ways does Aaron’s message mirror the gospel of Jesus Christ?