
Biblical Response to an Active Shooter

Posted by: [Misti McHatton](#)

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Early in the morning on July 20, 2012, a lone gunman entered a movie theater and opened fire shooting 71 people; 12 of which died. Investigation is ongoing, but they have a suspect in custody.

This “active shooter” is an isolated incident, yet there are precautions that can be taken to help prepare for such an event as well as to help assist others in a similar situation.

The Biblical Response to an Active Shooter

Be AWARE of ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION

- Victims are selected at random
- Event is unpredictable and evolves quickly
- Law enforcement is usually required to end an active shooter situation
- Be aware of your environment like any suspicious individuals, packages, or backpacks

Be READY

- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit
 - If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door
- Have an escape route and plan in mind

Be THERE

Your Safety First:

- Leave your belongings behind
- Keep your hands visible HIDE OUT
- Hide in an area out of the shooter’s view
- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager.

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- Last resort if your life is in imminent danger:
 - Attempt to incapacitate the shooter
 - Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter

Once in safe location:

- Pray for your mind to remain focused upon Jesus Christ and His peace
- Pray for the active shooter,
- Pray for the victims
- Pray for God's protection and for Him to be Glorified - Psalm 91
- Help Law Enforcement
 - Remain calm and follow instructions
 - Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets)
 - Raise hands and spread fingers
 - Keep hands visible at all times
 - Avoid quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety
 - Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling
 - Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating
- Provide information to police or 911:
 - Location of the active shooter
 - Number of shooters
 - Physical description of shooters
 - Number and type of weapons held by shooters
 - Number of potential victims at the location
- Help Media
 - Turn any interviews into an opportunity to Glorify Christ, his protection, His comfort, his peace
 - Begin any interview with the Gospel first to avoid editing of your comments

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- Share your story with local Christian media
 - Write out your story for your comfort and encouragement of others ongoing

Provided courtesy of CEN www.christianemergencynetwork.org in cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation