

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Television Violence

The average person who watches television sees about one thousand murders on TV each year. That's three murders a day! Add to this all of the car chases, shootings, and fistfights, and what you get is a whole lot of violence.

Did you know that when you hear a gunshot on television, the sound you hear is not what a gun sounds like? Years ago, the makers of television discovered that real gunshots did not sound frightening enough. They changed the sound of gun shots using sound equipment in the recording studio. The sound that is recorded is louder and clearer. Why do you think that television makers would want gunshots to sound loud and scary?

Of course, gunshots are not the only things on television that are made less real. Many times, violence on television is made to seem easy to handle.

In most shows, the terrible results of violence—the pain, the blood, and the injuries—are not shown. People get shot and fall down. They don't scream or bleed. In real life, violence is scary and hard to forget.

When people see violence over and over the way it is shown on television, they think it is no big deal. According to television, shooting and fighting don't really hurt. But in real life, they do.

When people see violence over and over on television, they think that this is the way to live. They forget that television is make-believe. God created people to live in peace.

To talk about:

1. What might watching violence on television do to the way you think?
2. What might watching violence on television do to the way you treat others?
3. Count how many programs you watch that have violence. What can you do to change this number?