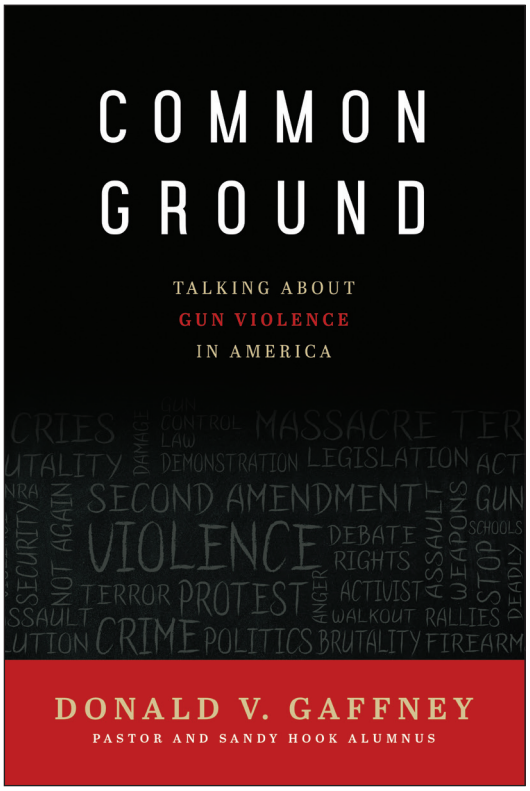
Book Club Questions for Donald V. Gaffney's *Common Ground*



What was your exposure to guns while growing up, both real guns and toy guns, and in the media you consumed?

What images come to mind when you think about America's gun culture? Are they mostly historical or contemporary? Do you think this culture is essential to what it means to be an American?

How do racial minorities fit into your image of gun culture? How do you see racial stereotypes played out around gun violence? How do these stereotypes affect your beliefs on whether guns should be carried openly in public?

How do you see the relationship between guns and violence? Should we attempt to separate gun control and gun violence prevention, or are the two inexorably linked? What do you believe would reduce gun violence in America?

How do you feel about the violence in the Bible? Do you believe God is nonviolent, or do you think the idea of a nonviolent God is simply modern wishful thinking?

Have you ever broken something or hurt someone in anger? Can our own love be strong enough to turn us from violence when we are angry? How does Jesus model that for us as we try to cultivate such a love?

How does fear usually manifest itself? What are healthy and unhealthy manifestations of fear? When thinking about guns and gun violence, what are you afraid of?

What insights have you gained from this study about guns and gun violence in America? Have your thoughts or actions changed as a result of a particular topic examined?

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