

After Sunday services...

# JUDGE NOT!

She better not come near me!



Did you hear that Miss Joyce has HIV? And, they say she's cooking for the church picnic.

HIV?

No one is going to eat that food!



Wow, I'm shocked to hear that!

Miss Joyce has HIV and she is cooking for the picnic!

What?

Oh lord, no...



How terrible, I hate gossip.

I can't listen to that.

...and HIV isn't transmitted through food.



I wish people better understood HIV transmission.

Then they wouldn't say such rude things.

Later that afternoon, Tina arrives at her Mom's House...

How was church today?

The sermon was powerful.

Sorry I missed it.



But Mom... people were gossiping about Miss Joyce living with HIV. I can't believe what I heard...

...and they call themselves children of God.



That is what I am afraid of. If they talk about Miss Joyce with all that she has done with the church...

...what would they say about me?



Mom, I think it's about time you talk to the Pastor.

Look at you, 20 years living with HIV. And who would know? People would listen to you.



Maybe you're right, Tina. I believe it is time that I speak with the Pastor.



I hope the Pastor will accept me.

If you go see the Pastor, I'd like to go with you.



A few days later at the Pastor's office...

Cathy and Tina, so glad to see you both. How can I be of service to you?

There's something I need to share with you...



...Pastor, I have been living with HIV for 20 years.

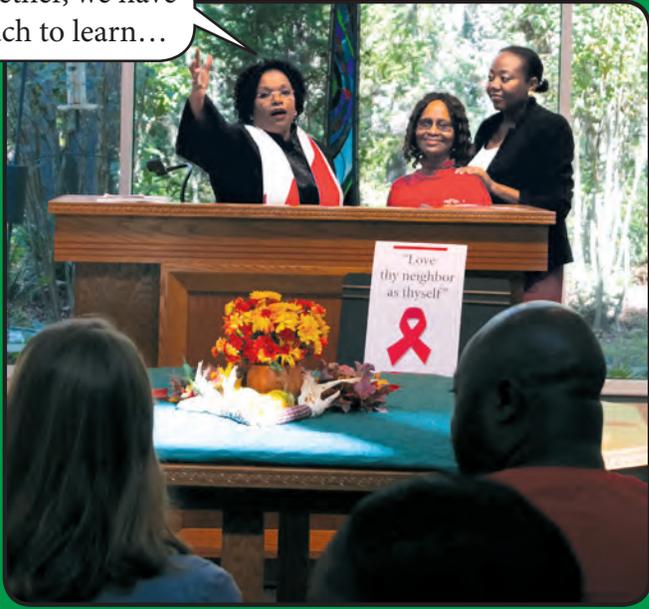


Sunday, after Miss Cathy's testimony...

Miss Cathy, there has been a lot of talk in the church lately. I think we need to address the HIV epidemic.



Together, we have much to learn...



...but, breaking bread together at our annual picnic, or even sharing our plate, is not a mode of HIV transmission, as some of you believe.



Let's be clear, eating together is an expression of love between our brothers and sisters.



And, in closing, remember Luke 6:37a.

“Judge not and ye shall not be judged, condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned.”



I can't imagine how hard it was for Miss Cathy to share her testimony.

She is right. We need to treat others as we want to be treated.



...and how painful gossip can be.



...and to be respected.  
Amen.

After the service...

Miss Cathy is amazing.



I'm so proud of you Mom! This congregation has heard your words and opened its heart.

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