

MM00984

SECTION 27

DIGITAL INDUSTRIAL THEATRE

HIV CHAPTER

KNOW YOUR STATUS

V2

30 September 2020

**HIV Chapter**

**Video Title: KNOW YOUR STATUS**

**Duration: 3-5 minutes**

**Characters:**

Thabo’s mom Cynthia - Young black mother, who is short and stout and very kind, friendly, approachable

Thabo’s dad Cedric – Traditional black father, who who wears glasses and is very opinionated and old-fashioned

Thabo - Young black nerdy guy with corn rows, who is gay

Mr Metsileng - Older black male teacher, who wears Madiba style shirt and is fun and friendly, and living with HIV

Farah - Young Muslim girl, who wears hijab, is very conservative and living with HIV

Puleng – Shy and soft spoken young black girl, who stutters

Mrs Ruther - Young white LO teacher, who is approachable, friendly and kind and living with HIV

**Chapter Summary:**

Scene 1 is set in Thabo’s home kitchen

Scene 2 is set in Mr Metsileng’s classroom

Scene 3 is set in the Mrs Ruther, the LO teacher’s office

**Video Script:**

**PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV**

*Scene 1 is set in Thabo’s home kitchen*

*Thabo’s mom and dad can be heard talking in hushed tones, but Thabo is in the passage and can hear the whole conversation*

Thabo’s mom Cynthia: Ai shame, did you hear Vusi has HIV?

Thabo’s dad Cedric: No man, this is what happens when these boys decide to be gay.

Thabo’s mom Cynthia: No Cedric, anyone can get HIV, I’m just so sad for his family.

Thabo’s dad Cedric: Do you think he’s going to live?

Thabo’s mom Cynthia: Yoh, I don’t know…I’m not going to tell Thabo, he will be so upset.

Thabo’s dad Cedric: Ya, good idea. Although, maybe it will be good for him to know the risks.

Thabo’s mom Cynthia: Cedric, not only gay men can contract HIV, anyone can…even you!

Thabos’ dad Cedric: HAIBO Cynthia!!!!

*Thabo walks into the kitchen*

Thabo: Sanibonani. *(Grabbing a banana)* I’m late for school, I’ll see you later.

Thabo’s mom Cynthia: Ube nosuku oluhle!

Thabo’s dad Cedric: Hamba kahle!

*Thabo leaves the house*

*Scene 2 is set in Mr Metsileng’s classroom*

Mr Metsileng: HIV is a virus that attacks your body’s immune system. This makes it harder for your body to fight off diseases. If untreated, HIV causes AIDS. Niyezwa?

Thabo: Sir, is HIV something only gay men get?

Mr Metsileng: Nooooo Thabo, HIV can be transmitted through unprotected sex between men with other men, women with women, or men and women. It can also be transmitted by sharing needles or coming into contact with infected blood or other bodily fluids, like semen or even breast milk, through parent to child transmission.

Puleng: So what’s the best way to not get HIV?

Mr Metsileng: Abstinence is the most effective tool in the prevention of HIV, but if you are sexually active, then condoms are the next best thing, because they stop the exchange of fluids during sex. Even if you are on a hormonal contraceptive like the pill or the implant, you need to use a condom too - a hormonal contraceptive does not protect you against HIV or a sexually transmitted infection.

Puleng: Is that it?

Mr Metsileng: No, there are a number of other options.

Farah: Like not having sex at all right? Abstinence!

Mr Metsileng: Abstaining from sex is the safest option, that’s correct!

Puleng: I heard it’s safer if you’re circumcised.

Thabo: No way!!!

Mr Metsileng: She’s right, voluntary medical male circumcision reduces the risk of HIV by 60% in men.

Thabo: So how do you know if you’ve got it?

Mr Metsileng: The only way to know for sure is to get tested, and HIV testing is free in South Africa in all public clinics. If you’re sexually active, it’s recommended that you get tested at least once a year.

Farah: Knowing your HIV status is important, not only to protect yourself…

Puleng: But to also protect others.

Mr Metsileng: Exactly!

Thabo: What happens if you meet someone and fall in love, and then you find out they have HIV?

Mr Metsileng: Well, if you are HIV negative, but your partner is positive, you can take something called PrEP, pre-exposure prophylaxis, which is an anti-retro viral or ARV, which you take at least 20 days before vaginal exposure, and 7 days before rectal exposure. You should continue taking PrEP for as long as you are exposed to the virus, and you don’t stop on day 20. And in addition, you should always wear a condom.

Puleng: And what if you have sex with someone and you don’t know they have HIV?

Farah: Or if you get raped?

Mr Metsileng: Post Expsure Prophylaxis, or PEP, is an ARV drug that can be taken AFTER being exposed to HIV through unprotected sex, or through sharing needles. It must be taken within 72 hours of contact, otherwise it won’t work. You should continue taking PEP for a maximum of 30 days.

Farah: Sir, can women living with HIV, like me, fall pregnant?

Mr Metsileng: Yes, you can.

Farah: But what happens when you’re pregnant and living with HIV?

Mr Metsileng: An infected mother can pass on the virus to her unborn child during pregnancy or during childbirth, or even afterwards through her breast milk; but it’s not guaranteed that her child will be HIV positive.

Farah: But if the baby is positive, then they have to go on treatment too? With those ARVs?

Mr Metsileng: That’s right.

Thabo: So, what happens when someone you know is living with HIV? Can you still live with them?

Mr Metsileng: Of course Thabo. These days HIV is manageable if you take your medication properly, and many of us who are HIV positive live normal and healthy lives; but it is up to you to be careful.

*Bell rings*

Mr Metsileng: Ok class, break time.

*Scene 3 is set in Mrs Ruther, the LO teacher’s office*

*Puleng knocks on the door*

Mrs Ruther: Come in…

Puleng: Hi Mrs Ruther, I have a question, but I’m shy to ask it in class.

Mrs Ruther: Sure Puleng, take a seat. What is it?

Puleng: I heard some guys talking at break, is it true that a person who sleeps with a baby can be cured of HIV?

Mrs Ruther: Sleeping with a baby or a virgin to cure HIV is NOT TRUE! HIV cannot be cured, but it can be managed through taking anti-retro viral treatment or ARVs daily, for as long as you live, which you can get for free at your local clinic. Most of us who have HIV are able to live pretty normal and healthy lives, as long as they take their medication.

Puleng: Ok, I’m happy to hear that. I wish all the men that raped young kids knew that too…I’m sure that's the only reason they do it.

Mrs Ruther: I wish they did too Puleng, there is so much wrong information out there that people believe, so when you hear those kids talking at break, please share the information I have shared with you ok?

Puleng: I will. I also have another question, you know imbiza?

Mrs Ruther: Traditional medicine?

Puleng: Yebo, what about drinking imbiza?

Mrs Ruther: Drinking imbiza as a traditional medicine to cure illnesses is one thing, but you can’t use it for HIV. Some of the imbiza concoctions have strong herbal ingredients that clean the ARVs from your system, and make you resistant to HIV treatment.

Puleng: So it’s actually not a good idea to take imbiza?

Mrs Ruther: Not for HIV Puleng…

Puleng: Ok sharp! Thank you Mrs Ruther.

Mrs Ruther: Anytime, my door is always open.