

CASE STUDY

Divide participants into two groups or more. Give each group a “Case Study” to read and discuss among themselves. If time permits, ask each group to share highlights of their discussion.

A Friend with AIDS

Several years ago your best friend David from school spent a semester in another country. He had a great learning experience and fell in love with a high school girl there. Their relationship turned into a whirlwind romance and became intimate. It was difficult for David to return home. He promised to write his new girlfriend every day and that someday they would marry.

As time passed David turned his attention to activities and friends at home. His “long distance” girlfriend did the same. Their relationship waned until the two agreed it was nearly impossible to continue and called it to an end.

About three months ago you noticed David started getting sick. He was missing a lot of school, dropping out of sports, and visiting lot of doctors. David shared with you how scared he was, that he didn't know what was wrong with him. You reassured him that he would be getting better in no time, though you were secretly afraid that your friend had serious problem. David had confided in you that he and his ex-girlfriend overseas had been intimate and that she had been involved previously with an older man who died of AIDS.

One day, David came to your house in tears, saying that he really needed to talk to you. He proceeded to tell you that the doctors had told him that he was HIV positive. You both knew what a diagnosis like this meant. David felt his life could never be the same and that everyone would begin to shun him.

Unfortunately, his fear became true. Friends stopped inviting him out, the coach kicked him off the basketball team, and teachers started treating him as if he was contagious. Even his own parents became fearful, making him eat using disposal cups and tableware and not letting him use the same bathroom as the rest of the family.

- What are your initial reactions to David's condition?
- How can you support your friend and encourage others to support you friend as well?



Equipping Leaders Internationally
PO Box 1083
Mahomet, IL 61853
217.377.9444

Terms:

While this website is available in English only (at this time), permission for republication and distribution in different formats and translation into different languages is freely granted to community-based and not-for-profit organizations, provided the source is acknowledged and an electronic copy of any translation is supplied to ELI.

Located in Mahomet, Ill., ELI is a community-based nonprofit organization emphasizing life skills for emerging youth leaders in third world countries. ELI has been formed by Paul and Virginia who have been working with youth in United States and abroad for more than 30 years. For further information on ELI, please call (217) 377-9444.