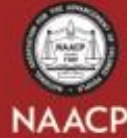




## THE BLACK CHURCH & HIV THE SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPERATIVE



### How to Incorporate HIV into a Sermon

We, as faith leaders, can make a difference in the lives of our church and community by using the resources available to us to raise awareness about health injustices and ways to stop the spread of HIV. One of the most important ways we can educate our congregation is from the pulpit. **The sermon is one of the most powerful parts of the worship service.**

As we know, the more we repeat a message the more impact it has. Just as we usually preach multiple sermons about salvation, forgiveness, miracles and love, we have to teach multiple times about the critical health issues that our community continues to face. HIV as a social justice issue is the message and the sermon is how we deliver it. **Integrating HIV messaging into your sermons is a powerful way to raise awareness and show your leadership and commitment to this social justice cause.** One key strategy is to include HIV in sermons that relate to health.

Below are some ideas for bringing HIV/AIDS in your sermons.

#### Potential Themes

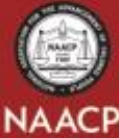
- Am I my brother's keeper? [**Genesis 4:8-13**]
- Jesus lifted up the "other." We have to lift each other up. [**I Thessalonians 5:10-12**]
- Jesus told the disciples to meet him in the area of Galilee where no one wanted to go and that is what we have to do – go and address the issues where others will not go. [**Matthew 28**]
- Jesus' command for us to love one another. [**John 13:34**]
- The Good Samaritan. Who is our neighbor? We have a responsibility to the marginalized. [**Luke 10:25- 37**]
- The man who brought his son for Jesus to heal. We have to bring those who are hurting to Jesus. [**John 4:43-54**]

#### Additional Scripture Inspirations

- **Amos 5:24 (MSG)**, "Do you know what I want? I want justice—oceans of it. I want fairness—rivers of it. That's what I want. That's all I want."
- **Isaiah 41:6**, "They helped everyone his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, 'Be of good courage.'"
- **Jeremiah 22:3 (MSG)**, "This is God's Message: Attend to matters of justice. Set things right between people. Rescue victims from their exploiters. Don't take advantage of the homeless, the orphans, the widows. Stop the murdering!"
- **John 14:12-14 (NIV)**, "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask for anything in my name, and I will do it."



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- **John 9:1-7 (NIV)**, “As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ‘Go,’ he told him, ‘wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.”
- **Like 6:37-38**, “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”
- **Luke 4:18 (NIV)**, “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.”
- **Mark 2:1-9 (NIV)**, “A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ‘Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, ‘Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk?’”
- **Matthew 23:23 (NIV)**, “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law— justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”
- **Matthew 25:45 (KJV)**, “... Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.”
- **Micah 6:8 (MSG)**, “But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously — take God seriously.”
- **Psalms 27:14**, “Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”