



30 Ideas for Your Church to Become Engaged in the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

1. Recognize World AIDS Day (December 1) with a prayer in your church.
2. Host a World AIDS Day Event or Worship Service.
3. Invite an HIV/AIDS missionary or local leader to speak at your church.
4. Place HIV/AIDS educational materials on display in your church. There are good factual materials and good materials for Christians available. Some individuals with HIV have indicated if they do not see this on the information table, they do not believe the church is a safe space.
5. Educate yourself about HIV/AIDS.
6. Collect some information for your pastor and others to read.
7. Set aside some prayer time at your church during National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS (the first full week in March) [Home - Balm In Gilead](#) Check the website Balm in Gilead for information about the National Week of Prayer.
8. Partner with a local AIDS Service Organization (ASO) to help people living with HIV/AIDS in your community.
9. Challenge your church to set aside some funds to assist people living with AIDS that have needs. (Gas vouchers, food cards, utility bill assistance).
10. Host an HIV/AIDS Support Group.
11. Make your building available to the AIDS community for meeting space. Provide snacks!
12. Teach your congregation about HIV/AIDS – in the LGBT Christian community there is still a lot of stigmas associated with HIV and barriers to be open to honest sexual discussions.



13. Pray for people who live with HIV/AIDS both overseas and within your own community.
14. Mention HIV/AIDS in your church bulletin or newsletter (World AIDS Day, and/or National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS).
15. Host an HIV testing event at your church.
16. Include HIV/AIDS info whenever you do a fair or missions' event at your church.
17. Call the Executive Director of a local AIDS Service Organization (ASO) and find out how your church can provide support.
18. Send someone from your church to a local HIV/AIDS Community Planning meeting. These take place in every community (sometimes called Regional Community Planning Groups) and are open meetings. Faith-based groups need to be a part of the community! Find out how to get involved in your local Ryan White Planning Council.
19. Find out what your church network, or other churches in your area are already doing to help people who live with HIV/AIDS.
20. Ask your pastor to pray about HIV/AIDS from the pulpit.
21. One of the best ways to become involved is to become educated. Learn more about HIV. Take the HIV Quiz.
22. Do a service project for people who have HIV/AIDS.
23. Talk to your pastor about starting an HIV Ministry in your church.
24. Include HIV/AIDS materials in small group Bible studies.
25. Talk about HIV/AIDS in your bible study group or Sunday school class.
26. Find out what HIV resources are already available in your community and explore how your church can fit in. What gaps exist? What does your church already do well?
27. Participate in community-wide missions' events such as Operation Inasmuch <http://www.operationinasmuch.org> and make sure that the opportunity is there to serve the AIDS Community.



28. Ask your pastor to preach a sermon about HIV/AIDS.
29. Explore the Bible in relationship to a Christian Response to HIV/AIDS. Materials are available through our website.