



The Leader's Critical Role

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What if Acts 2:42–47 read like this?

And the believers, some HIV-positive and some not, devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to deep fellowship with one another, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Everyone was filled with awe, and many signs and wonders were done by the apostles, as they united in battle against the dreaded virus spreading through the community.

All the believers, infected or not, were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, those who were healthy and financially stable gave generously — even sacrificially — to those who were not.

Every day, those who were strong enough met in the temple courts, and then they gathered in the homes of those who were too sick to leave, sharing a meal together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of outsiders, who were amazed by the grace that was stronger than the stigma of AIDS.

And the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved, some to live long lives, others to be ushered with dignity through death and into the presence of God.