I AM SOMEONE’S HOPE

VCT
One day I was with Bea and Vida when a lady peer educator met us. She spoke to us about HIV/AIDS and suggested that we go for Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) for peace of mind and to stay healthy to earn more money. I listened intently to her because I am the sole provider for my child back in the village.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. What is VCT?
2. Why is it necessary?
3. What is the benefit?
4. Why must we stay healthy?
Bea refused to go for VCT saying that all die be die. She thought there was nothing to be gained from VCT. She was wrong!

**QUESTIONS TO ASK**
1. Why did Bea refuse to go for VCT?
2. Why was she wrong?
Vida and I went to the VCT centre where friendly, considerate health professionals counseled and conducted the HIV test. We also had the chance to ask a lot of questions.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. What is a VCT centre?
2. Where can they be found?
3. Who works there?
Vida tested positive and was counseled on how to live positively. She was told about medicine that would enable her to stay healthy. Vida began making plans on how to continue providing for her aged mother in the village.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. What does it mean to test positive?
2. Should we accept people living with HIV/AIDS? Why?
3. What is the name given to HIV/AIDS Medicine?
4. Where can they be obtained?
I tested negative, they counseled me on how to stay negative so that I could remain healthy to work and look after my child who needs me. They told me to always use a condom correctly and to avoid sharing needles, blades and sharp objects with others. They also taught me that people living with HIV are just like me. Vida has been my friend for a long time. It could’ve just as easily been me.

QUESTIONS TO ASK
1. What does it mean to test negative?
2. What do you think Cece was told?
Bea did not know her status and continued to live recklessly. One day we heard that she was very sick and could no longer work.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Why must we all know our HIV status?
2. What do you think happened to Bea?
I am glad that we went for VCT. Now I have the peace of mind to plan my life and ensure my child has lots of opportunities in life. Vida’s plan to open a shop has been a success! She continues to care for her mom. We are someone’s hope!

**QUESTIONS TO ASK**

1. Why must we go for VCT?
2. Why must we stay healthy?
3. Why must we work hard?
4. What have we learnt from this story?