

The COVID-19 CHRONICLES

Religious Beliefs & COVID-19



Health
Development Fund

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Introduction

CCOVID-19 has swept across every community and many households. Religious groups have not been spared. The virus spreads fast when people come into close contact with each other.

Many religious groups have already had to change the way in which they meet for worship or other forms of service. Religious gatherings and practices, which involve touching, hugging, and other types of close contact, are not recommended because they could cause the virus to spread very quickly.

Suspicion and resistance can follow calls for changes in or reduction of religious gatherings and physical distancing. There is a need for clear and correct information to explain the changes which are recommended, and to reiterate why they are important.

Contents

APOSTOLIC CHURCH	2
TRADITIONAL HEALERS	10
CHILDREN AND CHURCH	15
PEER TO PEER EDUCATION	20

APOSTOLIC CHURCH

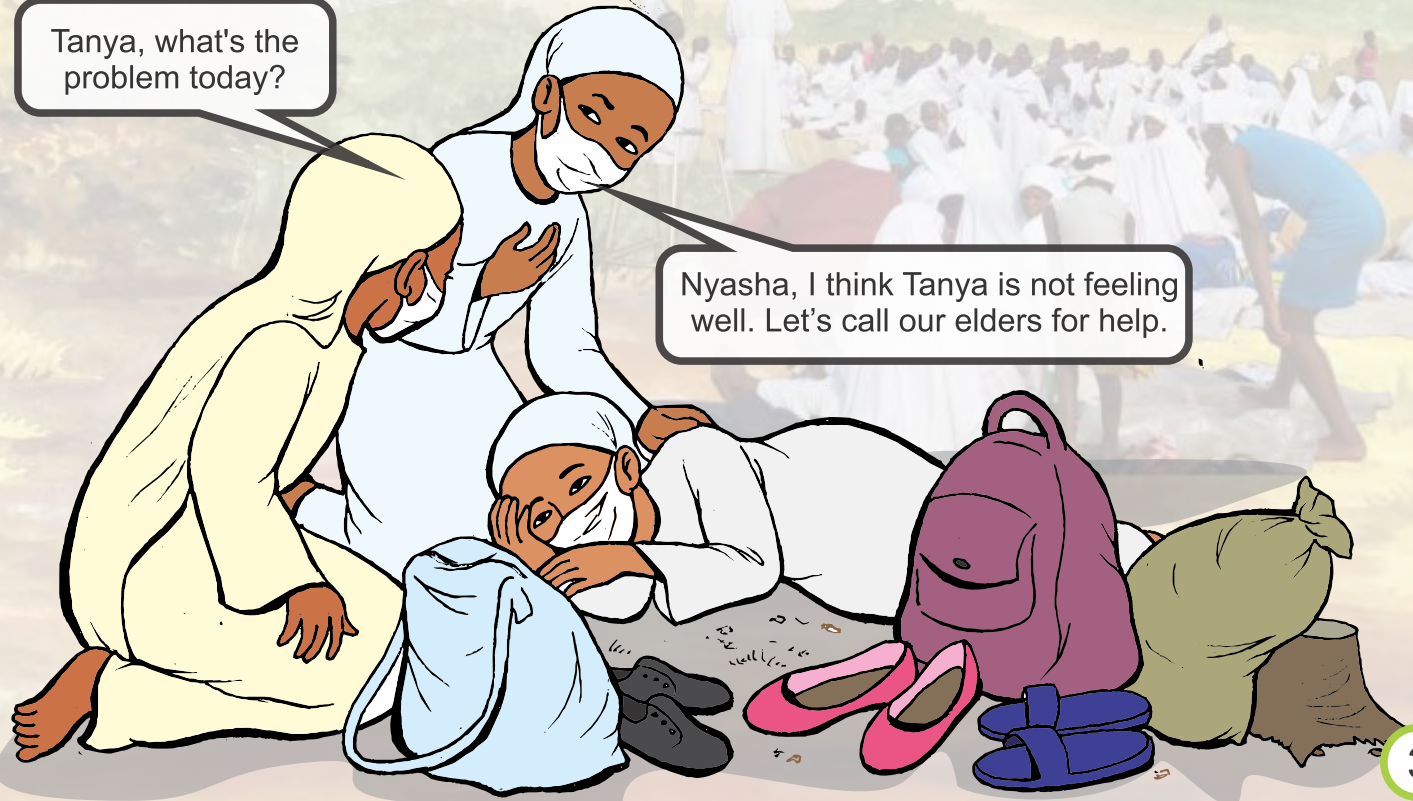
Religious Beliefs & COVID-19



Congregants of the Apostolic Sector are gathered at church service. A few metres away where the congregants leave their belongings there are children who seem to be attending to a sick child of their age

Tanya, what's the problem today?

Nyasha, I think Tanya is not feeling well. Let's call our elders for help.

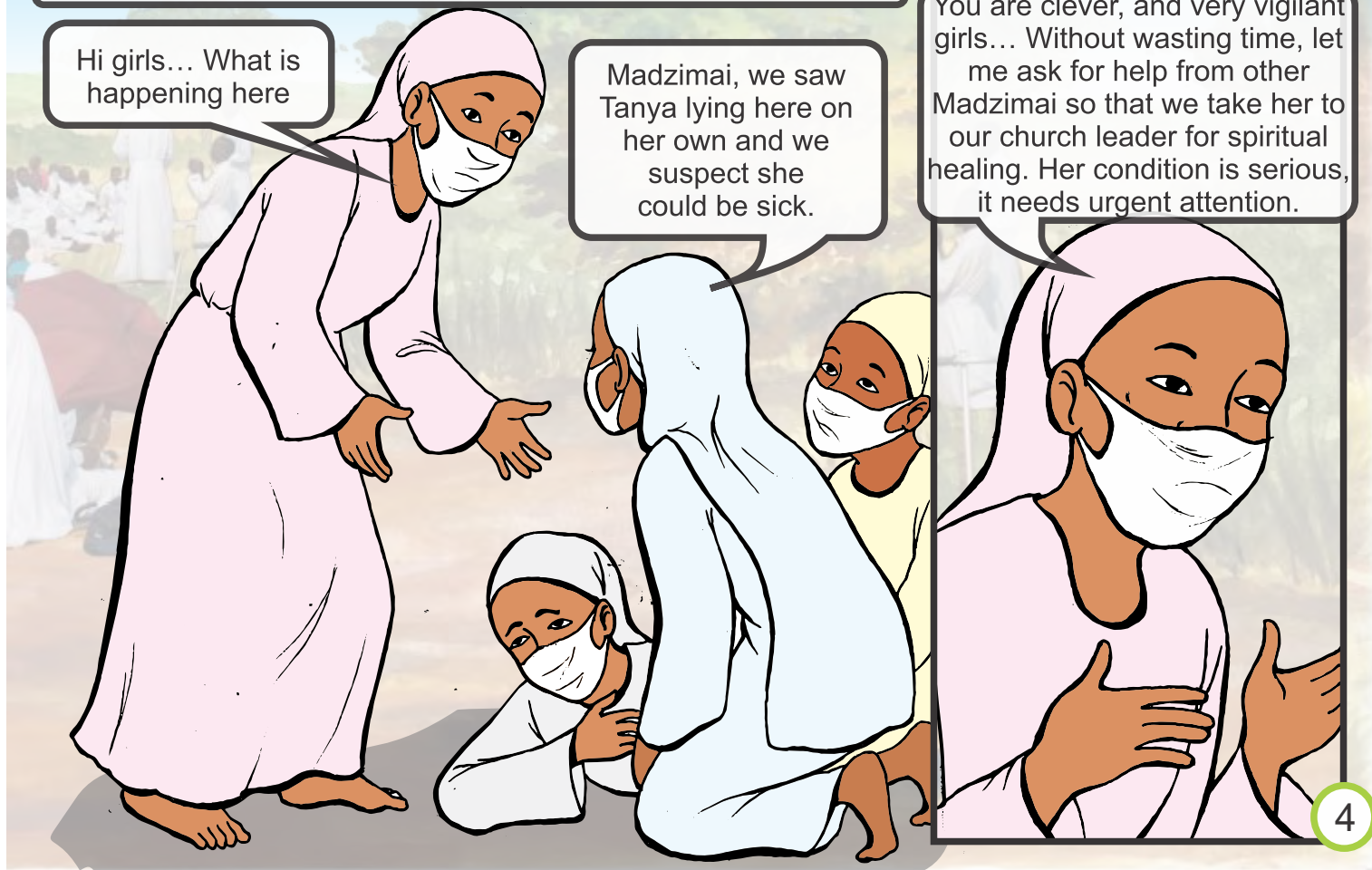


One of the gate keepers of church, (*muzvinadare*) comes rushing to check what is going on.

Hi girls... What is happening here

Madzimai, we saw Tanya lying here on her own and we suspect she could be sick.

You are clever, and very vigilant girls... Without wasting time, let me ask for help from other Madzimai so that we take her to our church leader for spiritual healing. Her condition is serious, it needs urgent attention.



They take her to Madzibaba the church leader. Suddenly there is silence as Madzibaba stops preaching looking at unwell Tanya and those assisting her.

Excuse me... What is going on there?

Our sincere Madzibaba..., we are bringing to you one of your lamp, Tanya whom we suspect to be sick... Please assist us father and we are sorry to disturb you.



You are welcome...
Who came with her
from home?

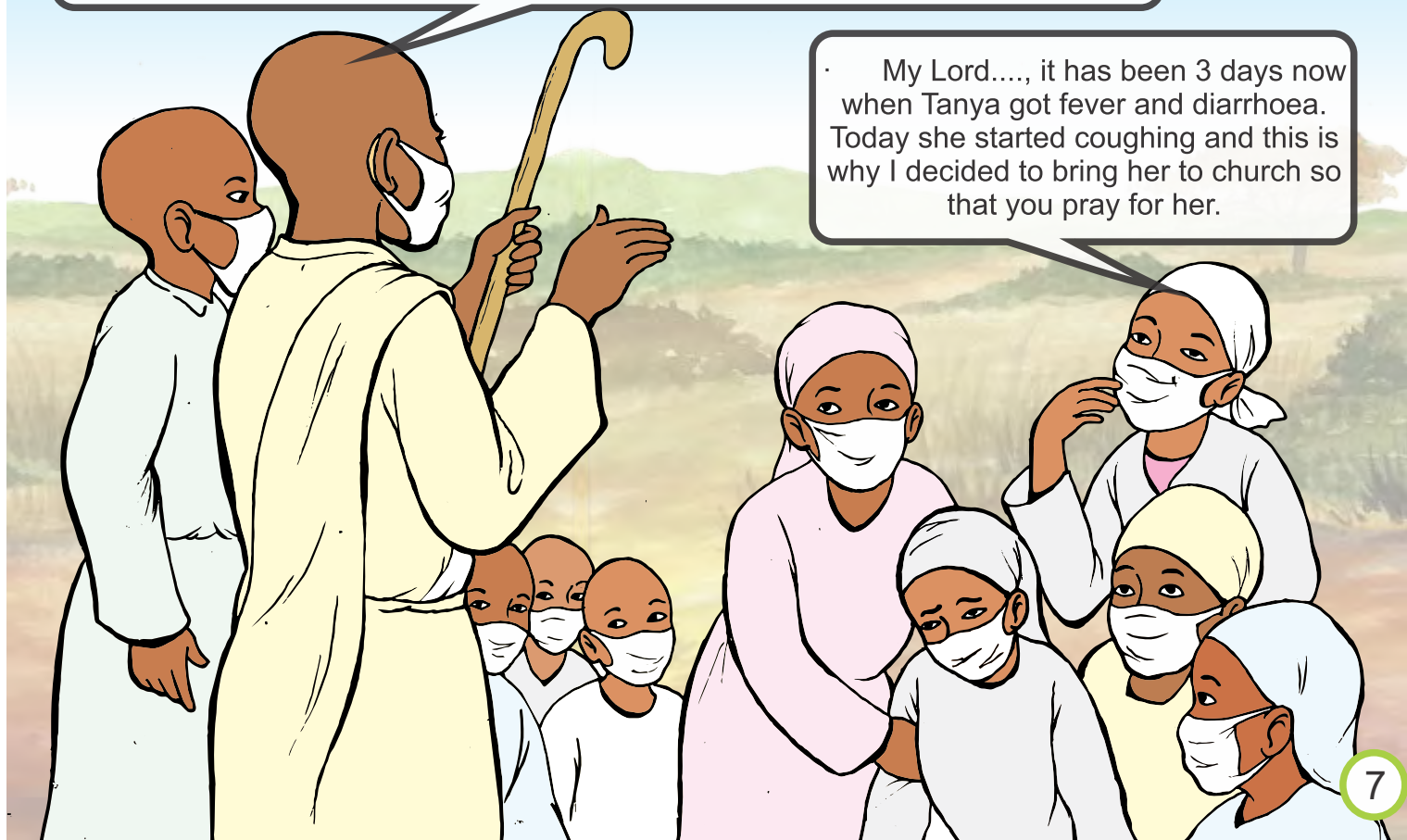
Tanya's mom comes to Madzibaba screaming and
squeezing her way past other congregants.




My Lord..., I am Tanya's mother!!
Little did I know that she was to get so
serious... Please help me My Lord.

To you all gathered here..., we are in the time of COVID 19. I beg you, please do not take chances, some sickness could be COVID 19. However, can you bring the sick child whilst her mother tells us about the sickness...?

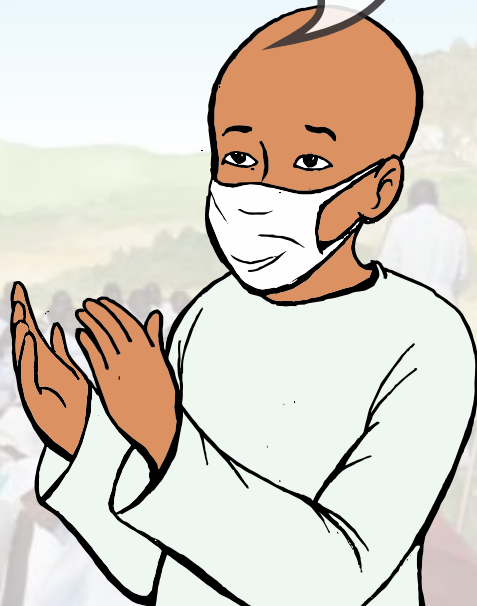
My Lord..., it has been 3 days now when Tanya got fever and diarrhoea. Today she started coughing and this is why I decided to bring her to church so that you pray for her.






Ok madzimai ... I am going to pray for your daughter Tanya. My advice to you is that soon after this prayer please take her to the nearest Health facility for observation. These are symptoms of COVID 19.

One of the curious congregants stands up and raises a question.



Madzibaba Niko: Excuse me Madzibaba..., I may be disturbing but for the benefit of all of us here. What is COVID?



COVID-19 is a disease which spread easily from person to person through contact, air and surfaces such as wood, metal and plastic.

True / False?

- 1) In the pictures on pages 3,4,5,6 & 7, are the people practicing social distancing? **True** ☐ **False** ☐
if your answer is 'True', give reasons and examples
.....
- 2) COVID-19 is not a topic for discussion among Apostolic Faith worshippers, they are not affected by the virus? If your answer is 'True', give reasons **True** ☐ **False** ☐
.....
- 3) Anyone who coughs or sneezes has COVID-19? **True** ☐ **False** ☐
If your answer is 'True', give reasons
.....
- 4) At such a gathering we should be wearing masks, washing and sanitizing our hands and sanitize and any assistive devices? **True** ☐ **False** ☐
If your answer is 'True', give reasons
.....
- 5) Was Mai Tanya correct in bringing sick Tanya to the shrine? **True** ☐ **False** ☐
If your answer is 'True', give reasons
.....
- 6) If Tanya was to test positive for COVID-19, do you think everyone at the shrine should be worried about being infected? If your answer is 'False', give reasons **True** ☐ **False** ☐
.....

TRADITIONAL HEALERS

Religious Beliefs & COVID-19

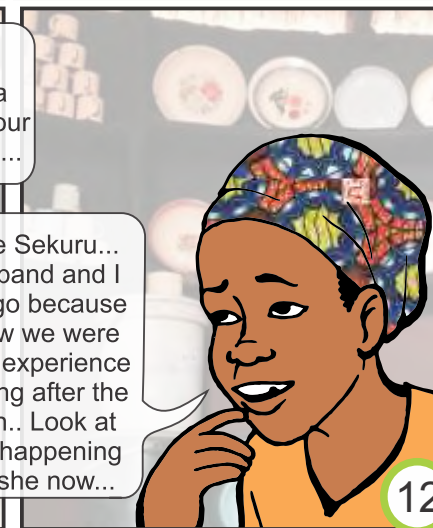
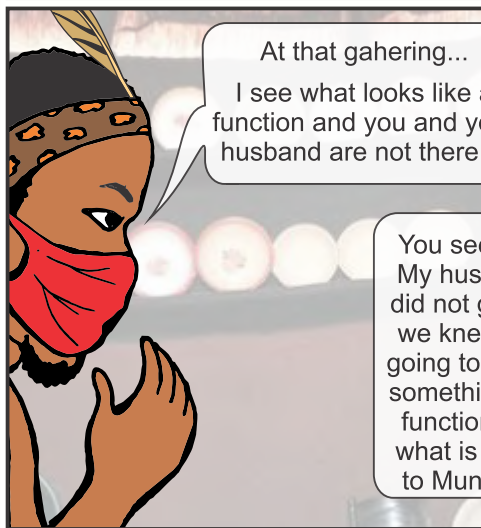
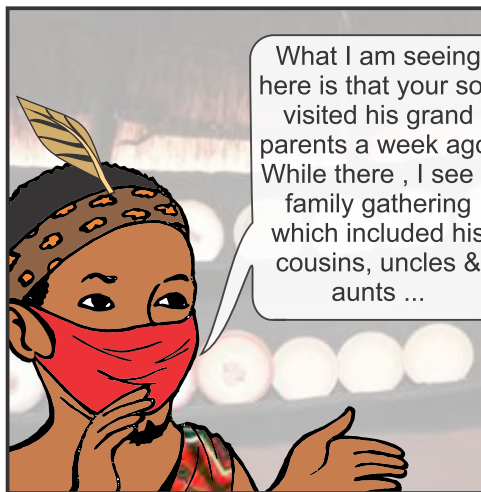


Munashe a 10 year old boy is showing signs of fatigue, fever and difficulty in breathing. His mother takes him to a local traditional healer. They reach the shrine where they find him waiting for the next client ...

Welcome Mai Munashe,
what brings you here today
after such a long time.

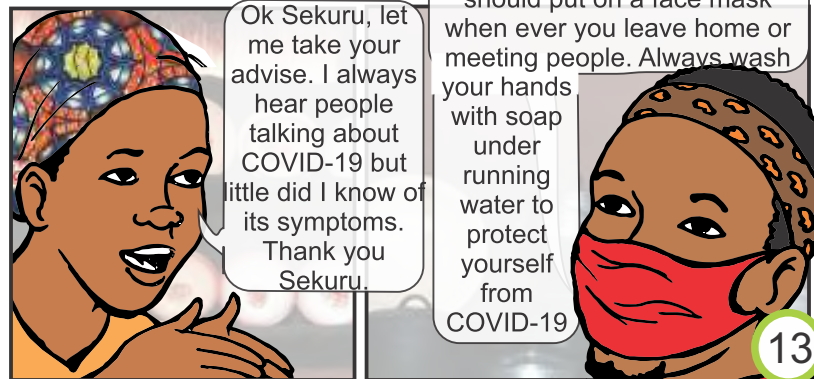
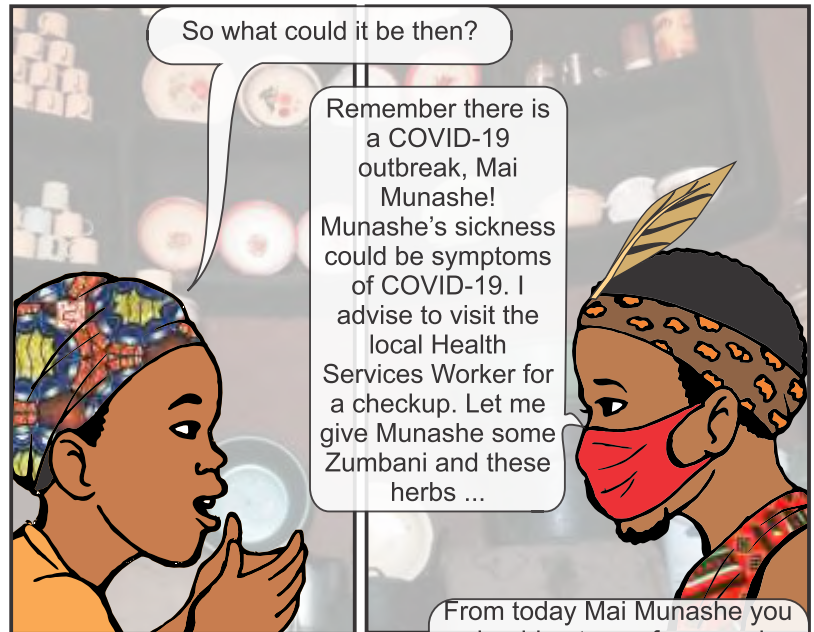
We have not slept for the past
2 days. Munashe has a fever
and he is always fatigued and
is short of breath ...







A few minutes later ...

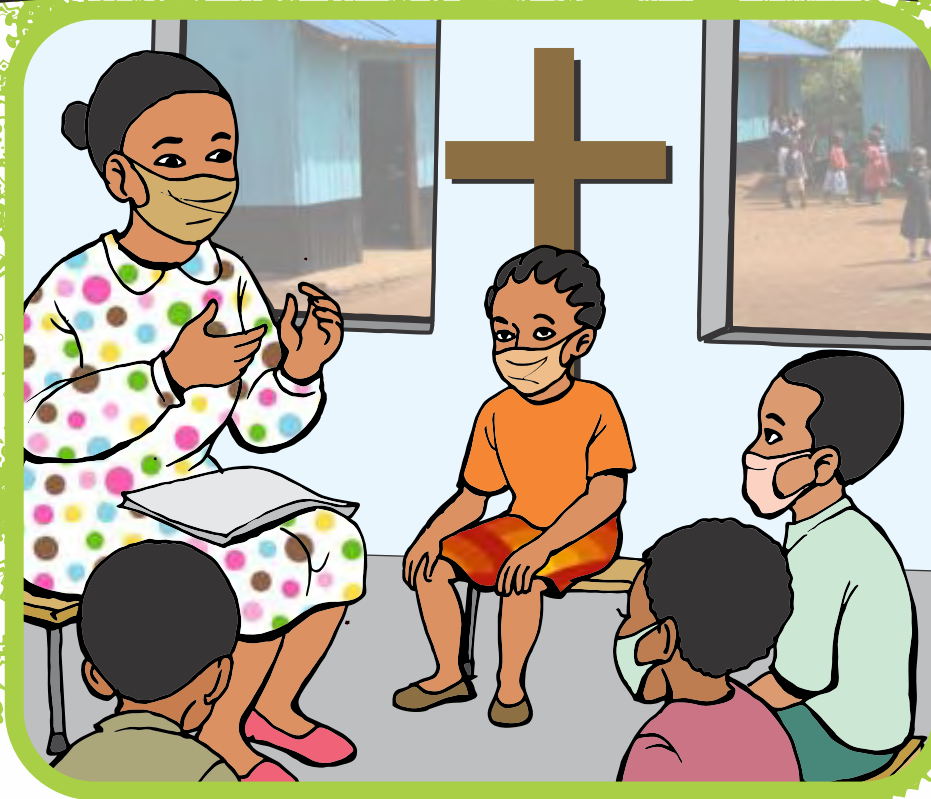


True / False?

- 1) In the pictures on page 11, are the people practicing social distancing?
If your answer is 'True', give reasons and examples **True** ☐ **False** ☐
- 2) COVID-19 is not a topic for discussion among people who go to traditional healers, they are not affected by the virus? If you answered 'True,' explain why..... **True** ☐ **False** ☐
- 3) Anyone who coughs or sneezes has COVID-19?
If your answer is 'True', give reasons **True** ☐ **False** ☐
- 4) Should one wear a mask, wash and sanitize hands, when consulting a traditional healer?
If your answer is 'True', give reasons **True** ☐ **False** ☐
- 5) Should one consult a traditional healer in these times of Covid-19?
If your answer is 'True', give reasons **True** ☐ **False** ☐
- 6) If Munashe was to test positive for COVID-19, do you think everyone at the shrine should be worried about being infected? If your answer is 'False', give reasons **True** ☐ **False** ☐

CHILDREN & CHURCH

Religious Beliefs & COVID-19



Children are having Sunday School at Church ...



Some people say the world is coming to an end and it is in the Bible.

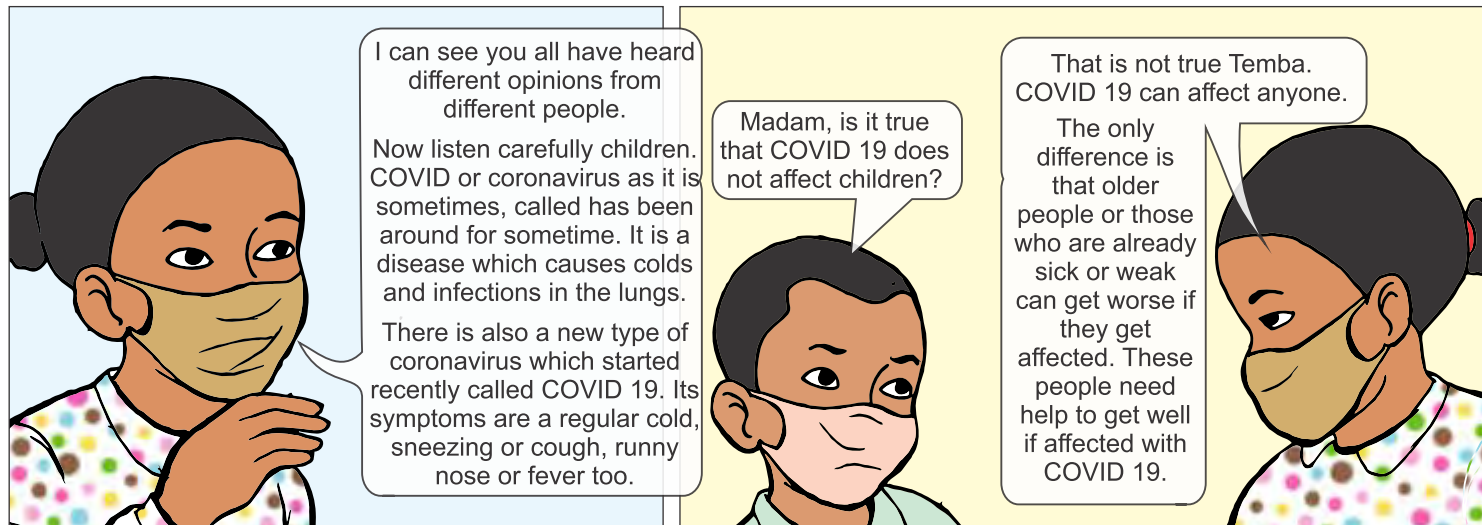


My mum says it is witchcraft.

My father says it is flu like disease.

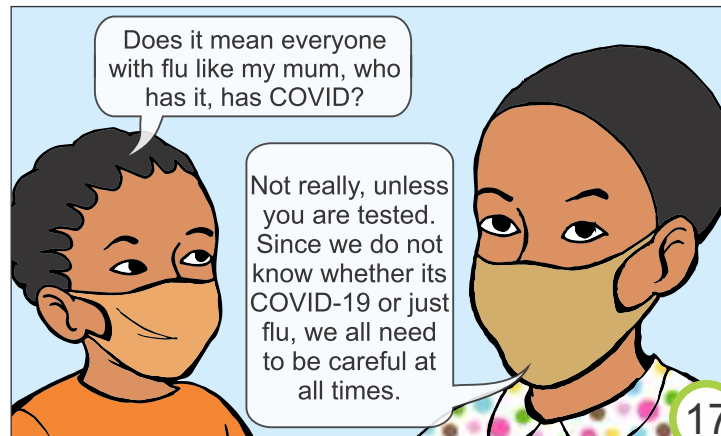
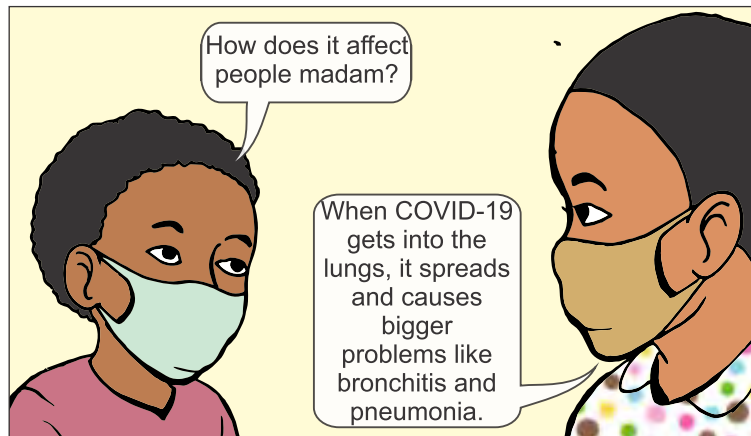


My grandparents say it is a weapon made to kill black people.



That is not true Temba. COVID 19 can affect anyone.

The only difference is that older people or those who are already sick or weak can get worse if they get affected. These people need help to get well if affected with COVID 19.



I hope we now know what COVID is. Can you tell me symptoms of COVID 19?

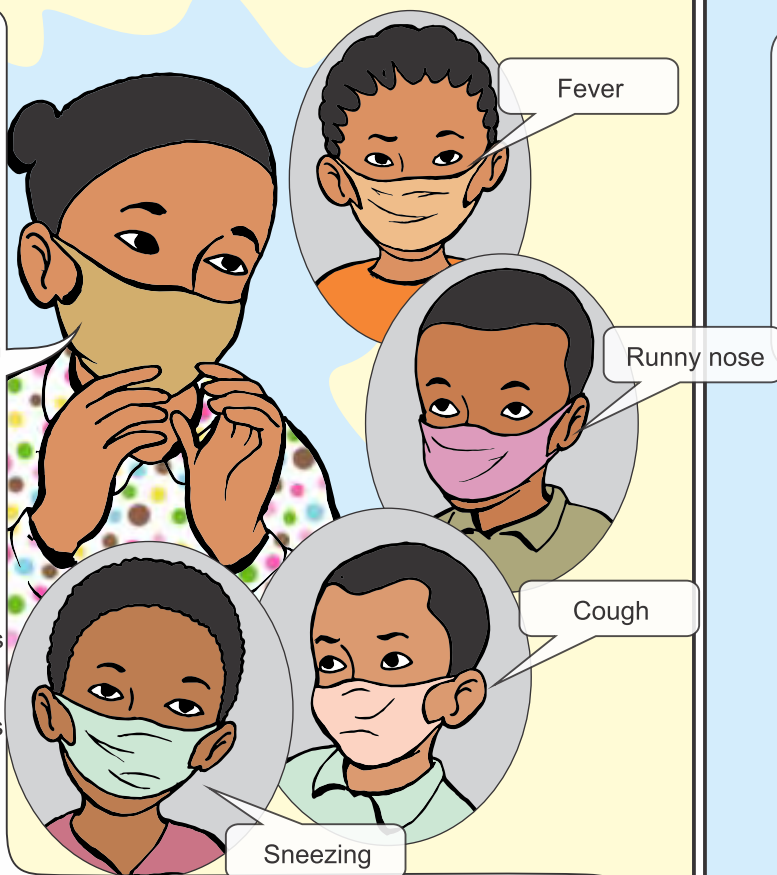
People with COVID-19 may experience a wide range of symptoms, from mild to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2 - 14 days after exposure to the virus.

People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache

- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat

- Congestion or runny nose
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea



Well done! I am happy you are all wearing face masks and have been keeping social distance. When you get home, tell your family members to stay safe.

Next time we shall talk more about how to keep ourselves safe.

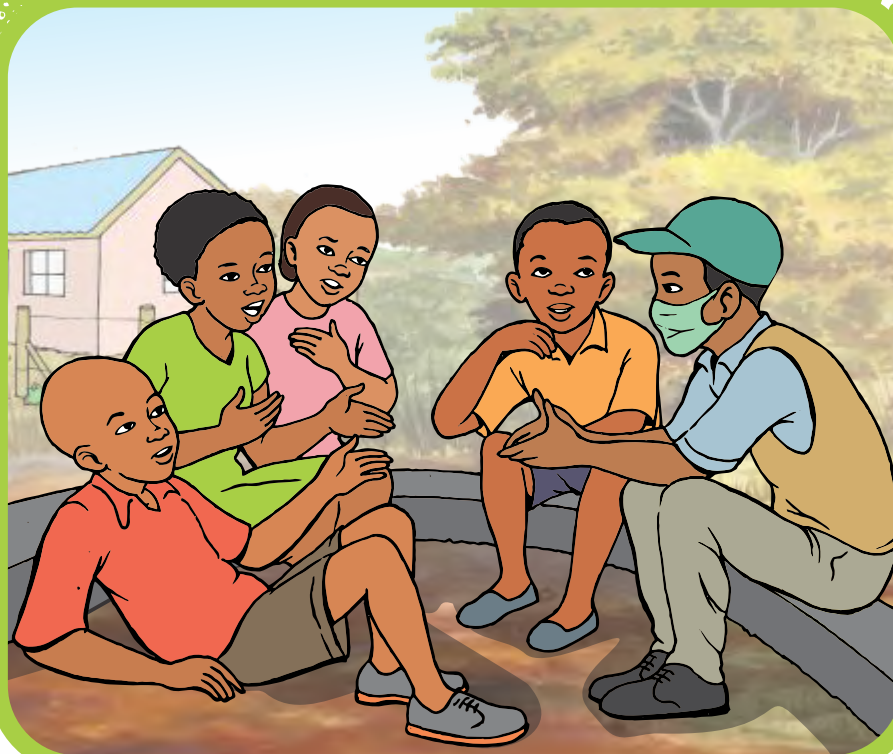


True / False?

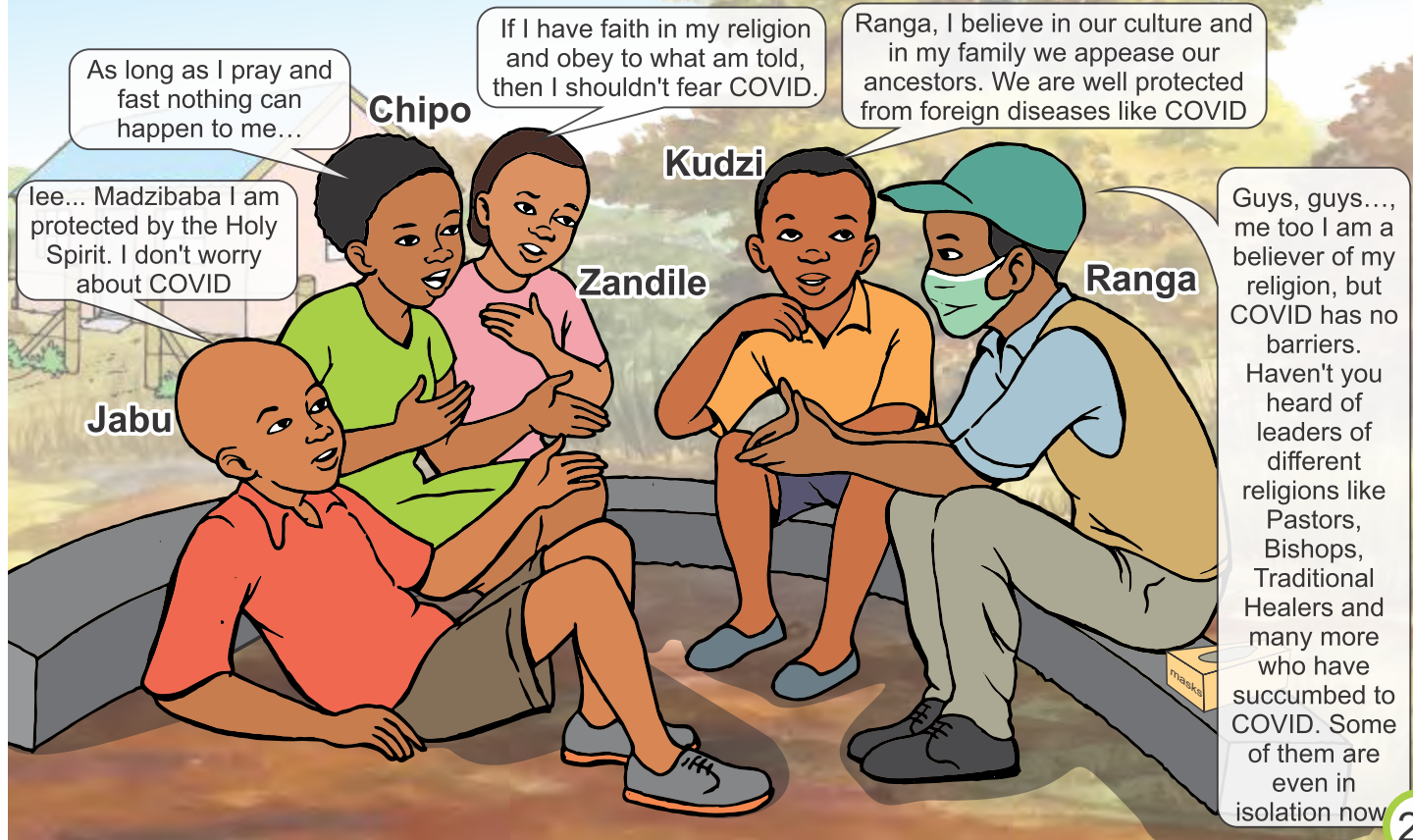
- 1) Having a small number of congregants at church gatherings can reduce the spread of COVID-19?
If your answer is true state why..... True ☐ False ☐
.....
- 2) COVID-19 is not a topic to discuss with children as they do not need to know about COVID-19?
If your answer is False give reasons..... True ☐ False ☐
.....
- 3) COVID-19 does not affect minors and children?
If your answer is True give your reasons..... True ☐ False ☐
.....
- 4) The elderly are not spreading correct information on COVID-19
If your answer is true give reasons..... True ☐ False ☐
.....
- 5) Sunday School meetings cannot be conducted in the same way as before COVID-19?
If your answer is False give reasons..... True ☐ False ☐
.....
- 6) What can we do to stop COVID-19 from spreading?
.....

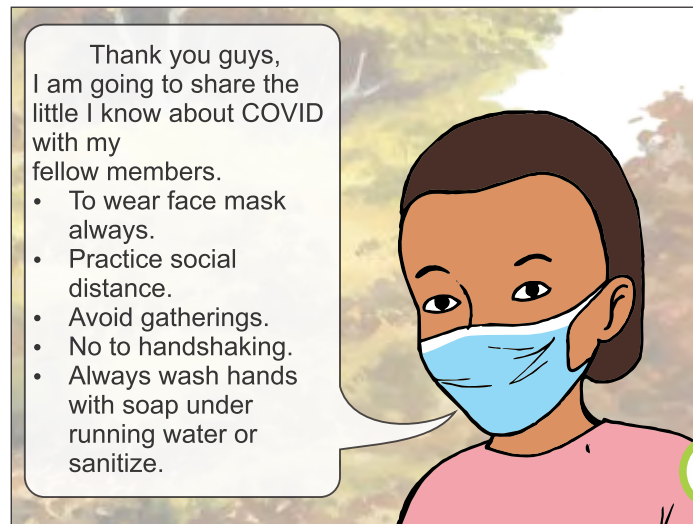
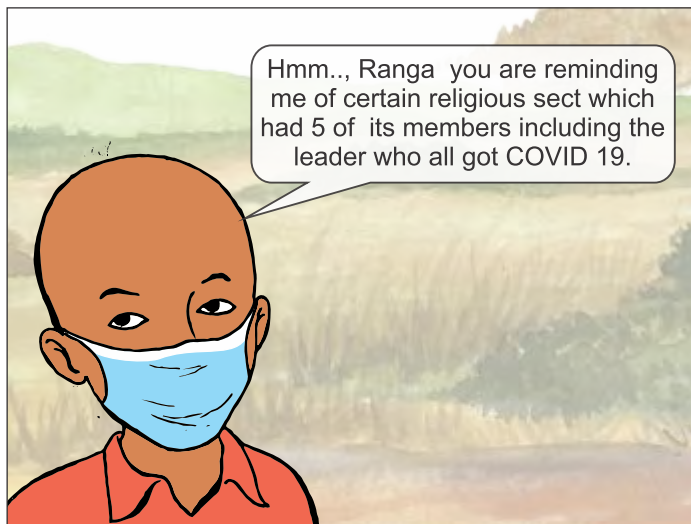
PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATION

Religious Beliefs & COVID-19



Religious Beliefs and COVID-19... (Peer to peer Education)





True / False?

- 1) With the unpredictability of coming school year, peers can help each other understand more about COVID-19? If your answer is True give reasons..... True ☐ False ☐
.....
- 2) In the pictures on page 21, are the children practicing social distancing? If your answer is True, give reasons and examples True ☐ False ☐
.....
- 3) Should young people resume hanging out like they used to do before COVID-19? If your answer is True give reasons..... True ☐ False ☐
.....
- 4) Is a prayer the only thing peers should acknowledge against COVID-19? If your answer is True give reasons..... True ☐ False ☐
.....
- 5) The elderly are not spreading correct information on COVID-19 If your answer is True give reasons..... True ☐ False ☐
.....
- 6) Should church services or social gatherings resume in this lockdown relaxation? If your answer is False give reasons..... True ☐ False ☐
.....
- 7) What can we do to stop COVID-19 from spreading?
.....

All about COVID-19

COVID-19 virus **is not a living organism but a protein molecule** (RNA or DNA) covered by a protective layer of fat, which **is easily absorbed** in to the body **through the cells of the eyes, nose or mouth** and it mutates and converts into aggressor and multiplier cells.

The virus CANNOT go through healthy skin.

The COVID-19 virus is very fragile; the only thing that protects it is a thin outer layer of fat and that is the reason why soap or satirizers with over 65% alcohol are the best weapon.

COVID-19 on average takes 5–6 days from infection to the symptoms showing.

Symptoms include fever, dry cough, tiredness, aches and pains, sore throat, diarrhoea, runny nose, headache, loss of taste or smell, a rash on skin, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, chest pain or pressure, loss of speech or movement,

Seek immediate medical attention.

COVID-19 vaccination

Vaccines are medicines that are given to people to protect them against vaccine preventable diseases.

What is a COVID-19 vaccine?

It is a vaccine that is intended to provide immunity against COVID-19 and is being rolled out through a nationwide vaccination programmes.

Why should I get vaccinated?

Vaccines will help protect you and those around you against COVID-19.

Who can get vaccinated?

Nearly everyone can get vaccinated, but it will be conducted in phases. Phase one caters for COVID-19 frontline workers. Phase two targets the elderly & people with pre-existing conditions. Phase three targets the remainder of the eligible population. COVID-19 vaccines will be provided **free of to all**.

Are vaccines safe to use?

Yes. Vaccines are safe and have been in use for many years in Zimbabwe.

Will I be forced to take the COVID 19 vaccine?

Vaccination will be voluntary and provided free of charge.



Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust

