**Chapter 3: “Like Any Other Disease” - Supporting Materials**

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you make sense of Lebo's story and his grandmother’s reaction to it? What are the immediate and structural causes of all the confusion?
2. How does Block examine the structural inequalities of Lesotho's AIDS epidemic? Do you think her approach, which looks at “biomedical facts, misinformation, accuracy, and misconceptions" (Pg. 112) lacks anthropology's culturally relative perspective, or do you think this approach is justified? Explain.
3. What are the greatest challenges to AIDS education in Mokhotlong? Provide an example from the book.
4. Why do you think misinformation about HIV persists? Illustrate your answer with an example from the text.
5. What do you think are the biggest barriers to HIV prevention in Lesotho? Why?
6. What are the reasons Basotho people do/do not receive HIV testing? Do you think Block's experience getting HIV tested is relevant? Explain.
7. Block argues that the "provision and distribution of free antiretroviral drugs has been the single most important step toward a more effective response to HIV" (Pg. 144). Do you agree? Explain.
8. Block writes about how her interlocutors talked about AIDS like it was "any other disease" when it has been the cause of many deaths and created many orphans in Lesotho. Why did they do this? What function did it serve? What potential benefits and drawbacks could this normalizing discourse have?
9. Do you think it was ethical for Block to intervene on behalf of Tsepi (pg 147-148) given that he gained access to a level of intervention that is not widely accessible or sustainable? Explain your answer.
10. In what ways does this chapter provide evidence for the argument that AIDS is a kinship disease?

Activity:

Make a chart with two columns labelled "Structure" and "Culture". With your group, brainstorm all the structural and cultural factors impacting HIV/AIDS in Lesotho and put them on either or both sides of your chart. Try to list as many factors as possible. Where relevant, provide examples to go along with them (optional). Chapters 2 and 3 will be most useful in making this chart, but you can draw from the whole book.

Afterwards, discuss the following questions:

1. What argument does Block make about the relationship between culture and structure? Which has had a larger impact on the AIDS epidemic in Lesotho?
2. If you were a public health practitioner, how would you account for both culture and structural inequality in addressing the challenges of HIV/AIDS?