

**“Opportunities In the Church...”**  
**To Make A Difference With Our Families.**

Intro.

- A. Whenever you go shopping, there is usually a great variety of choices of products & decisions to be made.
1. While a given brand of a product may not make any significant difference, there are important areas of life when there are very significant differences. (illustration: true of Drs., automobiles, etc.)
  2. This is especially true as you consider the REAL difference between the N. T. church & the truth of God's word makes in our daily lives.
- B. Jesus used an ordinary occasion in **Jn. 4** to make an important difference in the life of the Samaritan woman.
1. Aquila & Priscilla made big difference in the church family in Ephesus. (**Ac. 18-19**)
  2. \**Mohamed Rafie Nazie* I met on jet from Trinidad to Guyana, S.A. from Berbice. Wanted to teach family.
- C. The Bible illustrates great contrast in families that = strong examples & made positive differences, & families that were plagued with problems which seemed to perpetuate wrong decisions & bad choices.
1. Strong ex.: *Noah* (**Gn. 6:8-18**); *Abraham & Sarah* (**Gn. 22:8ff**), *Moses* (**Heb. 11:23-25**) *Tim* (**2 T.1:5**)
  2. Poor ex: *Isaac & Rebekah* (**Gn. 25:28-29**) who showed favoritism & taught deceit, *Ahab & Jezebel* (**1 Kg. 21**) who would kill & steal –selfish gain, *Herod & Herodias* (who would compromise convictions & kill the righteous) **Mt. 14:6f**, *Ananias & Saphira* (**Ac. 5**) who conspired to lie to God, *Job* - whose wife encouraged him in the wrong direction (**Job 1:1; 2:9**)...

Discuss.**I. THE WORLD NEEDS CHRISTIANS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR FAMILIES!**

- A. In 1975, our nations saw for 1<sup>st</sup> time in our history divorces topping the 1-million mark. (1000+ @ day, involving 300,000 children @ yr.)
1. Those who deal with marriages in trouble will tell you the problem areas in marriages:
 

a. Finances	.c. Alcohol	.e. (religion, sex, role conflicts, etc.)
b. Communication	.d. In-laws	→ <b><i>selfishness, immaturity, irresponsibility</i></b>
  2. Although we wish it was otherwise, abuse, neglect & divorce is also very prevalent in the church, & the topic assigned me is timely!
- B. Having a happy (successful) home is no accident, but the result of *Planning, Preparation, Participation, & Preservation!*