



“Making a Difference”

## INTRODUCTION:

\_\_\_\_\_ : How often do you brighten up the lives of others with special acts of kindness?

\_\_\_\_\_ : How often do you look for opportunities to touch people’s lives?

\_\_\_\_\_ : Have you opened a closing door?

\_\_\_\_\_ : Have you stood up for someone when they were being put down?

\_\_\_\_\_ : Have you gone the extra mile for someone?

\_\_\_\_\_ : Have you ever felt that you **can’t** make a difference on your own?

\_\_\_\_\_ : Have you thought that maybe, just for once; if you acted on belief, you might make a big difference to someone’s life?

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ : **Story**

## \_\_\_\_\_ : **WHY SHOULD WE BOTHER MAKING A DIFFERENCE?**

\_\_\_\_\_ : There are many reasons why we should bother to make differences, but here are three important reasons.

\_\_\_\_\_ : **WE SHOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE BECAUSE OUR WORLD DEPENDS ON IT.** Our world would never survive if people did not help one another. We need each other to survive. Where would this world be without good Samaritans? What would have happened to the dying man if the Good Samaritan hadn't stopped to help?

Where would we be without the mother Teresa's of the world, who help the dying, poor, and sick children. Without compassionate people, the world would be in chaos.

\_\_\_\_\_ : **WE SHOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE BECAUSE OUR FULFILLMENT IN LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.**

Jesus never told his audience how the Good Samaritan felt when he left the inn and continued on his journey. But I am sure that he felt fulfilled because he had done something useful and good for his fellow man. Can you imagine how Paul felt when he finally delivered the money to the famine, stricken church in Jerusalem? I am sure he was glowing inside. When we help others, we help

ourselves. A deep sense of satisfaction and fulfillment floods into our lives when we take the time and energy to do something worthwhile for others -- just to lend them a hand.

### [ILLUSTRATION: Video clip- The power of one](#)

\_\_\_\_\_ : WE SHOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE BECAUSE GOD EXPECTS IT.

### [Gospel Reading](#)

A reading from the Gospel Matthew 28:18-20).

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"

This is the word of the Lord

### **[Response: Thanks be to God.](#)**

\_\_\_\_\_ : Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His disciples to go into the world and make disciples. He commissioned all of us to go out into our homes, our neighborhoods, and our workplaces and make a difference in the lives of people. Because you and I know that if we

bring others to Jesus, He will make a difference in their lives.

\_\_\_\_\_ : WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE DOES GOD USE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Most of the people who made a difference in the Bible were not well known. They were not all that talented. Most of them did not appear qualified for the work that God had given them.

\_\_\_\_\_ : IN FACT, SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE EVEN RESISTED AT FIRST.

When Moses stood in the wilderness in front of the burning bush, he must have been glad to learn that God was about to rescue the oppressed Israelites from their Egyptian captives. But when God said, in (Exodus. 3:10) "I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt," Moses started making excuses. The man many people consider to be Israel's greatest leader tried to get out of making a difference.

\_\_\_\_\_ : SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO MADE DIFFERENCES WERE UNQUALIFIED.

The apostle Paul, who probably brought more people to Christ than any other person on earth, wasn't a great

speaker, but God used him in a mighty way to make a difference.

\_\_\_\_\_ : Other people that made differences: **Mother Teresa** - Lived a life of poverty to try and improve the conditions of others. Her devotion and compassion inspired the lives of many thousands she came into contact with.

\_\_\_\_\_ : **Anne Frank**- was an ordinary teenage girl. But, she became a symbol of how ordinary people can get caught up in man's unkindness. But, despite the most testing of conditions Anne retained a positive spirit.

\_\_\_\_\_ : **Florence Nightingale**-helped to change the treatment of patients after her experience of treating wounded soldiers in the Crimean war.

\_\_\_\_\_ : **Martin Luther King**- was an inspiring leader of the non-violent civil rights movement. He inspired millions of people black and white to aspire for a more equal society.

\_\_\_\_\_ : **Princess Diana** - Involved in many charities. She helped people to understand the surrounding issues of AIDS, poverty and inequality.

\_\_\_\_\_ : What about **Gary Barlow**? He made a huge difference recently when he went around the world to join people from the commonwealth countries together through

song, as a tribute to the Queen to show appreciation for all the hard work that she has done. He made a difference to so many people lives. I think the Queen was very touched by this effort.

Let's reflect on what he did.

### **Reflection :**

Sing video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwCfeTDcx0U>

\_\_\_\_\_ : Never believe that because you are only 1 person you won't make a difference ... Because you can.

### **Prayer**

\_\_\_\_\_ : Please join your hands in prayer...

Dear Lord,

Please let us remember that each one of us is unique,

Unique in his or her family,

And unique in the world today.

Please help us to find the courage to make a difference and stand up for what we believe in.

**Amen**

**Hymn** : We are one in the spirit .