



FAMILY FEATURE

STORY & DISCUSSION

THE BOY AND THE STARFISH

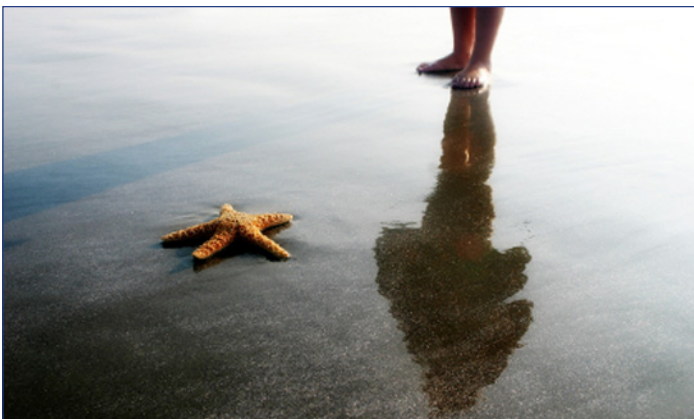
Together with your family, read the story of the boy and the starfish.

A man was walking along a deserted beach at sunset. As he walked he could see a young boy in the distance. As he drew nearer, he noticed that the boy kept bending down, picking something up and throwing it into the water. Time and again he kept hurling things into the ocean.

As the man approached even closer, he was able to see that the boy was picking up starfish that had been washed up on the beach and, one at a time, he was throwing them back into the water. The man asked the boy what he was doing, and the boy replied, "I am throwing these washed up starfish back into the ocean, or else they will die through lack of oxygen."

"But," said the man, "You can't possibly save them all, there are thousands on this beach, and this must be happening on hundreds of beaches along the coast. You can't possibly make a difference."

The boy smiled, bent down, and picked up another starfish. As he threw it back into the sea, he replied, "It made a difference for that one."



THE MORAL OF THE STORY

You can make a difference.

From the moment you were conceived, God had a plan for your life. He knows what will happen and has planned for a future full of hope.

The amazing thing is that many of those plans have already happened. You may never know the impact of the good things you have done. Through them you have affected others' lives and built up the kingdom of God.

Perhaps you will be a great parent one day. Perhaps you will become a bishop. Perhaps you will be a servant of the poor in a faraway country. Perhaps you will have a normal job as a teacher or salesperson. Whatever it is, your effectiveness always boils down to the love with which you do the actions. If you serve others with pride and contempt in a fancy job, you would be much better off washing dishes with love.

DISCUSS:

1. What kinds of things have family members done that "make a difference?" What about together as a family? Is there anything you want to continue or something new you want to start?
2. Student: what are your dreams for your future?