

## Troop 94 – Scout's Own Service

### HELPFUL

*Troop assembles for Scout's Own Service....once everyone is seated begin the program*

**Greeting:** We would like to welcome you all to today's Scout's Own Service.

*Instruct everyone to remove their hats.....they may remain seated*

**Prayer:** Please bow your heads...

For this time and this place,  
For your goodness and grace,  
For each friend we embrace,  
We thank thee, O Lord.

Amen

*Ask Everyone to please stand for the Scout Oath and Scout Law*

**Scout Oath** – *Scout Sign....Please recite the Scout Oath with me*

**Scout Law** - *Please say Scout Law ....Two*

*Ask Everyone to please have a seat*

### **Today's Message: Small Helpful Gestures**

Early one beautiful summer morning, an old woman named Mrs. Zhang was doing her daily walk along the beach to search for unusual seashells. She spotted a young girl crouched low by the water, scooping something up from the sand and throwing it into the ocean.

The beach was normally empty at this time of day, so Mrs. Zhang stopped to watch the young girl with amusement as she remembered herself as a child, playing by the shoreline and not having a care in the world.

She noticed that the girl was moving slowly down the beach front repeating this same action again and again – stopping, crouching down, scooping up something, throwing it into the ocean and then moving on.

“Hello there! What are you doing there, young lady?” the old woman asked with a friendly smile, as she walked closer.

“Hello ma’am!” “I’m saving these starfish that are stranded on the beach” replied the young girl named Mira, “if they stay on the beach like this, they will dry out and die, so I’m putting them back into the ocean so they can live and be beautiful.”

Mrs. Zhang was silent for a few seconds as she pondered Mira’s response to her question.

“Young lady” she said, “on this entire stretch of beach line, there must be more than one hundred or so stranded starfish. Then, around the inlet side, there must be hundreds more. There are starfish stranded for miles along this coastline – I’ve walked this beach every day for 10 years, and it’s always the same year after year. There must be millions of stranded starfish sweetie! I hate to say it, but you’ll never make a difference.”

Mira replied politely as she scooped up a starfish and plopped it into the ocean “well I just made a difference for that starfish”, and continued with her work.

**Reflection:** Take a moment and think, how often do you make a small difference?

Now, if every little thing that you did had to have a tremendous impact before you even gave it a little bit of your time, then would you even try? Probably not. Sometimes, those little things that we do add up and turn into something bigger! One drop of rain can make ripples that spread further and wider than our eyes can see.

All the starfish that Mira saved may have gone on to produce thousands more starfish.

Imagine if Mrs. Zheng had saved even just one starfish each time she had did her daily walk on the beach – she would have saved at least 3,650 starfish in ten years!

So, the next time you get chance to, do a good turn, do it! It might not seem like a big difference to you but, to the person you are helping – It could be that BIG difference that they needed right at that moment.

***Ask Everyone to please stand***

**Benediction:** May you walk in Peace. Live with Love, work with Joy, and May the Great Scoutmaster go with you.

**Closing:** Thank you for attending our Scout’s Own Service. Let’s close by singing the Scout Vespers

**Scout Vespers :** ***Second verse optional.....Scouts may hum the tune as they exit quietly***

Softly falls the light of day,  
While our campfire fades away.  
Silently each Scout should ask  
Have I done my daily task?  
Have I kept my honor bright?  
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?  
Have I done and have I dared  
Everything to be prepared?

***Second verse***  
Quietly we now will part,  
Pledging ever in our heart,  
To strive to do our best each day,  
As we travel down life’s way.  
Happiness we’ll try to give,  
Trying a better life to live,  
'Till all the world be joined in love,  
and with peace under skies above.