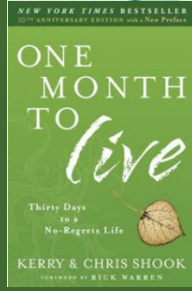


# ROSES *and* THORNS BOOK CLUB



Make It Last For Life

## DAY 27: *Starfish* Making a World of Difference

For the next month, choose one item of comfort, luxury, or convenience that you'll do without. It might be your daily Starbucks, the half-hour sitcom before bed, your favorite dessert, or something similar. Use the time or money that generally goes to this item for a larger purpose—praying, contributing to world philanthropy or missions, or offering your services to someone in need. Similar to the practice of giving up something for the season of Lent before Easter, this exercise can help you regain perspective on what it means to be a living sacrifice.

What cause, situation, or people group have you always been moved by? It might be the war-torn Middle East, people with AIDS in our own city, or missions in China, but most of us have been drawn at one time or another to concern outside our usual orbit. This week spend some time praying for these people and researching ways you can serve them—using your time, your talents, and your treasure. Commit to a specific goal that will meet some of the needs of the people facing these issues.

Needs are all around us, and we don't have to leave our neighborhood, let alone our country, to give sacrificially. This week imitate a local service project in your area. You might work with your church, a community Website, or your department at work. Commit to a specific goal—for instance, making home repairs for a single mom or widow, collecting clothes for a shelter, or raising money for relief funds. Set a date, and determine the role each person in the group will play in meeting the need and getting the job done.