



DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions
Level 4, Quarter A—Amy Carmichael

Integrate these questions and activities into your **DiscipleLand** Missionary Biography time. Expand your children's understanding of each story segment.

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4A—Missionary Biography

Amy Carmichael

Teacher Intro—AMY CARMICHAEL (1867—1951)

Amy Carmichael followed God’s call to “GO.” No one wanted to see Amy leave Ireland, but she knew God was calling her and she desired to obey. Amy faced loneliness and sickness, but trusted in the God who never leaves us. She experienced the promise of the Lord that “more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband” (Isaiah 54:1). Joy and love replaced loneliness as Amy raised a family of over a hundred children in India, all of whom affectionately called her “Amma” (Mother).

Strive with Amy as she struggles to communicate the gospel in both Japanese and Indian culture. Bump along with Amy and the Starry Cluster as they travel by cart to Indian villages, eagerly sharing about Jesus. Join Amy as she rescues children from Hindu temples and raises them to know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lesson 1—Irish Mischief

Read the story from page 12 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Always be ready for God to send you on an adventure.

Discussion Questions:

Amy attended a girls’ boarding school. What is a boarding school? (Attending a boarding school means you live at the school and only go home for vacations.) **Would you like to attend a boarding school? Why or why not?**

Where was the boarding school? (England) **Where was Amy’s home?** (Ireland) **Have the kids find England and Ireland on a map or globe.**

Why did Amy get in trouble at the school? (She led the girls up to the attic.) **Why did Amy lead the girls up to the attic?** (She wanted them to see the comet.) **Do you think she should have done that? Would you have followed her up to the attic?**

Amy was adventurous. What does it mean to be adventurous? (She was looking for adventure and didn’t mind taking a risk.) **Is being adventurous a good trait for missionaries? Why or why not?**

Why does Amy have to leave the school? (Her family can’t pay the tuition.) **What job does she have at home?** (She takes care of her younger brothers and sisters.) **How might that help prepare her for her life as a missionary?** (She will take care of hundreds of children in India.)

Right now, how might God be preparing you for serving Him later in your life? Lead a discussion and help the kids get excited about recognizing the ways they can prepare right now for serving God. Ideas: read and study the Bible, practice teaching by helping in the preschool class at church, learn a language, practice telling your testimony, etc.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to prepare for the adventure of serving God this week.

Have the students make a poster with the slogan “Serving God is an adventure.” Kids can decorate their poster with markers, stickers or glitter glue. Pray with the children and ask God to help them prepare for the adventure of serving Him this week.

Lesson 2—Tested by Fire

The story so far...**Amy Carmichael attended a boarding school in England where she had many mischievous adventures. When her family ran out of money, she had to return home to Ireland and take care of her younger brothers and sisters.**

Read the story from page 18 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Don't worry about what others think - live your life to please God.

Discussion Questions:

Describe the beggar woman in the story. Have you ever seen anyone like this? Let the children describe any homeless people or beggars they have encountered. Talk about how they handled the situation. Discuss some of the differences between dealing with a beggar in Amy's time (1870's) and modern times.

Why were Amy and her brother with a beggar woman?

What might your friends or family say if you helped a beggar?

What could our Sunday school class do to help a beggar or someone in need?

Amy heard the Holy Spirit remind her of a Bible verse. Have the children turn to 1 Corinthians 3: 10-15 and read the passage together. **Has the Holy Spirit ever reminded you of a verse? What verse?**

Cheap building materials are hay and straw. Would you build your home out of these materials? Why not? What are ways you might be building things in your life with "hay and straw?"

New homes are inspected before anyone can move into them. Who is Inspector of our lives? What are ways you might be building your life with "gold, silver or precious stones?"

Amy was embarrassed about what others think. Do we have any control over what others think? What are some ways that you can stop worrying about what other people think?

We want to live a life that pleases God. What are some things that please Him?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to unselfishly serve God this week.

Have the students make a calendar to write down when and how they unselfishly served God. Pray with the children and ask God to help them to unselfishly serve Him this week.

Lesson 3—Shawlies

The story so far...**Amy Carmichael and her brother helped a beggar woman. The church members were shocked that the children would spend time with a beggar. Amy decided it was better to please God than to please other people.**

Read the story from page 24 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: It is important to care for the needs of people.

Discussion Questions:

Amy visited the slums. What is a slum? Describe what Amy saw and smelled. (She smelled rotting food and sewage. She saw drunken men, children begging for food and women wrapped in shawls.)

Bring in a shawl and let each girl wrap up in it. Amy discovered the women in shawls were really young girls. What name was given to these girls? (Shawlies) Why did they wrap up in a shawl? (They wanted to keep warm.)

At age ten, girls often began to work full-time at the factory. How many hours did they work each day? (12 hours) Have any ten-year-olds stand up and ask them this question: Would you like to work in a factory for twelve hours each day? Why or why not?

What did Amy do to show that she cared about the shawlies? (She taught the shawlies about Jesus.) Where did she teach the shawlies? (She taught them at church.) Did everyone appreciate Amy's ministry? (No) What happened? (She couldn't use the church because the shawlies smelled and had lice.)

Amy cared so much that she didn't give up. She prayed and God provided the money for a new building. What name did they give the building? ("The Welcome") Why did they call it "The Welcome?" (The name meant that everyone was welcome to come there.)

What are some ways that you can show that you care for someone's needs?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to care for people's needs this week.

Have the students make a collage of pictures that show them caring for the needs of people. Pray with the children and ask God to help them care for the needs of others this week.

Lesson 4—Into All the World

The story so far... **Amy Carmichael cared for the young girls that worked long hours. She taught them about Jesus. When the church no longer allowed Amy to use their building, she prayed. God provided a new building and they named it “The Welcome.”**

Read the story from page 30 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Obediently serve God.

Discussion Questions:

What happened to Amy when she became too ill to work with the shawlies? (She rested at a country house, the Grange.)
How do you think Amy felt when she had to stop working with the shawlies?

Many Christian visitors came to the Grange. She talked with Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China. What do you think she might have learned from talking with Hudson? Have you talked to a missionary? What did you learn from him or her?

Read Mark 16:15. **What did Amy hear God say to her from this verse?** (Go)

Have you ever felt God speak to you through a Bible verse? What did He say?

Amy obeyed God. What country did she decide to go to? (Japan) If you were going to be a missionary, what country would you like to go to?

You can practice obeying God now. What are some ways that you have obeyed God? What are some ways you can obey God this week?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to obey God this week.

Have the students draw a picture of something they will do this week to show that they are obeying God. Pray with the children and ask God to help them obey Him this week.

Lesson 5—Tugboat in a Typhoon

The story so far...**Amy Carmichael became too ill to work with the shawlies. She rested at a country home where she talked with many Christian visitors, including Hudson Taylor, missionary to China. Amy obeyed God’s command to go.**

Read the story from page 36 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: God gives the strength to keep on going.

Discussion Questions:

Amy is on a ship headed for Japan. Use a map or globe and have the children find Ireland. Then ask the kids to find the water route to Japan.

Amy was very seasick. Have you ever been on a boat? Did you get seasick? Amy’s boat trip lasted several months. Would you like to be on a ship for several months? Why or why not? What might have helped Amy endure the long boat ride? (She might have thought about: God, her desire to obey Him, thinking about the Japanese people, etc.)

Why did the ship’s captain make Amy climb into a net? (The net lowered her onto a tugboat that would take her to shore.)
The tugboat almost capsized, but God answered Amy’s prayers and she finally stood on the shore of Japan. How do you think Amy felt when she finally reached Japan?

God helped Amy endure both boat rides. What has God helped you endure? What are some things you need God’s help to endure this week?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to turn to God for strength to endure this week.

Lead a discussion about how with God’s help we can endure and keep on going, even when we feel like giving up. Have the students fill their paper with the word “endure” —to remind them to keep on going. Kids could write the word and have it “snake” back and forth all over the paper. Pray with the children and ask God to help them turn to Him for strength to endure this week.

Lesson 6—Kimonos and Petticoats

The story so far...**Amy Carmichael's boat trip to Japan was long and hard. She endured and finally reached the shore of Japan.**

Read the story from page 42 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Be ready to change and do what is needed.

Discussion Questions:

Amy didn't speak Japanese. How could Amy tell the Japanese people about Jesus? (She used a translator to speak to the Japanese.) **Have you heard someone speak with a translator? Do you think it would be easy or hard to speak through a translator?**

Why did everyone stop and look at Amy? (She is dressed very different from the Japanese.) **Describe Amy's clothing.** (She wore an English dress with petticoats (layers of slips to make the dress stand out), boots and a hat.) **Describe the Japanese clothing.** (The Japanese wore a kimono (silk dress) with a big tie around the waist.)

Why didn't the Japanese people listen to Amy talk about Jesus? (They were busy staring at her clothes.) **What did Amy decide to do about the problem?** (She decided to wear a kimono.)

Amy adapted or changed so that the Japanese people could hear about Jesus. Would you be willing to wear different clothes if it meant people would listen to you talk about Jesus?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to be adaptable this week.

Have the students use crayons to completely color a paper. Then cover over the colors with a black crayon. Let the kids use a thumbtack or corner of a ruler to scratch out the words, "Be ready to change." Pray with the children and ask God to help them be adaptable this week.

Lesson 7—Loneliness and Promise

The story so far...**Amy Carmichael realized that her English clothing distracted people from listening to her talk about God. She solved the problem by wearing Japanese clothing.**

Read the story from page 48 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Trust God and be content.

Discussion Questions:

Amy was surrounded by missionaries, but they all were married and had kids. How did Amy feel? (She felt lonely.) Have you felt lonely? Explain.

Like most young ladies, Amy wanted to be married and have kids. She spent a day in prayer. What big decision or problem have you prayed about?

Amy went to a cave to be alone and tell her feelings to God. Do you have a special place to go and be alone with God? Do you think God wants to hear us talk about our feelings? (Yes)

Read Philippians 4:11. **This is a verse of comfort. Is there a special verse that gives you comfort?**

Amy realized that God was always with her. She could be content—even though she would not get married. Content means to be happy and not worry about something. Are you content? Are there things that you are not content about? How can trusting in God help you be content?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to be content this week.

Have the students make a huge bee on a paper. On the bee, the kids can write "Be content" and Philippians 4:11. Pray with the children and ask God to help them be content this week.

Lesson 8—Castes and Untouchables

The story so far...**The story so far...Amy Carmichael felt very lonely because all of the other missionaries were married and had children. She prayed and felt content that God would always be with her—she wasn't alone!**

Read the story from page 54 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: We can feel sad for the pain of others and help them.

Discussion Questions:

After one year, Amy left Japan and moved to India. Have the students locate India on a map or globe.

In India, what religion did the Indians follow? (Hinduism) Have you learned anything at school about India or Hinduism?

Explain the “caste system.” (You are born into a group or level and don't ever move up in life.) **What job does your father do? Then that is the job you must do and you could never be anything higher. Would you like that?**

What is an “untouchable?” (An untouchable is someone from the very lowest group.) **What was life like for an untouchable?** (They were treated badly, had bad jobs and were extremely poor.)

Amy didn't believe that God saw people at different levels. What does the Bible say?

Amy felt very sad about how the untouchables were treated. Her compassion motivated her to help the untouchables. Have you read about or do you know someone that might be treated badly? Do you feel compassion for them? What can you do to show your compassion?

*Note: to help the children understand the caste system try this activity. Pass out nice cookies to half of the students. Give a few crumbs to the rest of the kids. Let the children complain and then explain that shows how the caste system works. It isn't fair, but the untouchables don't have any opportunity to get cookies—only crumbs!

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to feel compassion for others this week.

Have the students write the word “compassion” down the side of a paper. Talk about ways the kids can show compassion. Let the kids take each letter of “compassion” and write a way to show compassion that begins with that letter. Pray with the children and ask God to help them show compassion this week.

Lesson 9—The Starry Cluster

The story so far...**Amy Carmichael left Japan and moved to India. In India, she discovered the people live in castes, or groups that they must never leave. Her heart was filled with compassion for the lowest group of people—the untouchables.**

Read the story from page 60 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Christ was humble and He will help us to be humble also.

Discussion Questions:

Humble people do not think they are better than others. When have you felt humble? The opposite of being humble is being proud (thinking you're better than others). **Do you know people who are not humble? How do you feel when you are around someone who is proud?**

Amy showed that she was humble when she decided to work with the untouchables, the lowest group of people in India. What did Amy ask God to send? (She asked for women to work with her.) **How did God answer her prayer?** (He sent her a group of women.)

What did this group of women call themselves? (Starry Cluster) Read Philippians 2:15 to understand why this name is a good name for them.

Read Ephesians 4:2. **We are told to be humble, gentle, patient and loving. Do you think this verse describes Amy and the Starry Cluster?**

This group of women humbly gave up their own homes, jewelry and the way they dressed so that they could show God's love to the poor outcasts. What would you be willing to give up so that you could humbly show God's love?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to humbly show God's love this week.

Have the students make a coupon book. Lead a discussion about ways the kids can humbly show God's love to others (helping with younger siblings, take a special treat to a neighbor, do chores for someone, etc.). Each coupon should say, “I want you to know that God loves you.” Whenever the kids humbly serve someone, they can give the person the coupon. Pray with the children and ask God to help them humbly serve Him this week.

Lesson 10—“Amma”

The story so far...**Amy Carmichael asked God to send her a group of women to help her serve the untouchables, the lowest group of people in India. God answered Amy's prayer and ladies were known as the Starry Cluster. They shone like stars in heaven as they humbly showed God's love.**

Read the story from page 66 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: We can have hope for the future.

Discussion Questions:

Amy discovered that young girls were slaves in the Hindu temples. Does a slave have hope for a good future? Read Jeremiah 29:11 to find out God's plan for each person.

Amy believed the temple girls had hope for a future if the girls were out of the temple and learned about Jesus. When Preena escaped from the temple, where did she go? (She went to Amy.) How did Amy show Preena hope for a future? (Amy gave her a home, loved her, and told her about Jesus.)

More and more girls were rescued. Amy took care of the girls. What did the girls call Amy? (They called her “Amma” which means mother.) There was a time when Amy felt lonely in Japan. Do you think she felt lonely now? God answered Amy's prayers in a big way—she now had hundreds of daughters!

The girls now had a hope for a future because Amy told them about Jesus. Knowing Jesus as your Savior is the best hope for a future—a heavenly future. Who do you know that needs hope for an eternal future? How can you help them learn about Jesus?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to pray for others to be hopeful this week.

Have the students make a paper chain. Cut out several 1-inch strips of construction paper. Let the kids take seven strips and write a letter of the word “hopeful” on each strip. Tape the strips in interlocking circles to make a chain. Each day this week, the kids should pray for someone to have hope. After praying, the child can tear off a circle. Pray with the children and ask God to help them pray for others to have hope this week.

Lesson 11—The Servant Writer

The story so far...**Amy Carmichael had hope for the young slave girls at the Hindu temples. She rescued and gave a home to the girls. These girls called her “Amma” or mother because she loved them like a mother and told them about Jesus.**

Read the story from page 72 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Determine to serve God your entire life.

Discussion Questions:

Many people retire when they reach their sixties. Did Amy retire? (No) Why not? Is there a certain age or a reason why we would retire from serving God?

Dohnavur Fellowship was the place where Indian children were given a home and love. Christians from many countries came to Dohnavur and showed God's love. Do you think these children felt God's love at Dohnavur? Would you like to serve God in a place like Dohnavur? Why or why not?

After Amy's injury, she spent 20 years in bed. When you are sick in bed, what do you do? What did Amy do while in bed? (She wrote articles about what God was doing in India, notes of encouragement, poems and songs.)

Amy was determined to serve God—even from a bed. Are you determined to serve God? What are some ways you can serve God this week?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to determine to serve God this week.

Have the students make a poster. Set out paper and washable inkpads. Since serving usually involves our hands in some way, let the kids put their fingers in the ink and use their fingerprints to write the words “I am determined to serve God.” Children can use markers to decorate their posters. Pray with the children and ask God to help them be determined to serve Him this week.

Lesson 12—India Today

The story so far... **Amy Carmichael lived her last 20 years in bed in India. She was determined to still serve God. Instead of retiring, she wrote articles about what God was doing in India, notes of encouragement, poems and songs.**

Read the story from page 78 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Never stop doing what God wants you to do.

Discussion Questions:

How many years did Amy serve Jesus in India? (58 years) Amy never stopped serving Jesus and her ministry in India continues. The Dohnavur Fellowship still cares for Indian children. Would you like to visit the Dohnavur Fellowship? Why or why not?

Perseverance means to keep on going, even when things are hard and you want to quit. Do you think it was easy or hard for Amy to keep serving Jesus? When is it easy for you to serve Jesus? When is it hard for you to serve Jesus?

Many Christians in India are persecuted because they believe in Jesus. Sometimes they are arrested, hurt or even killed. Take time to pray for the persecuted Christians in India.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder of the life of Amy Carmichael.

Have the students draw a picture of Amy Carmichael. Talk about some of the things she did: took care of her younger brothers and sisters, she and her brother helped a beggar woman, she taught the shawlies (factory girls), went to Japan on a long, hard boat ride, dressed like the Japanese so they would listen to her tell about Jesus, went to India, worked with the untouchables (lowest group of people), rescued and gave a home to the young temple slave girls, became Amma (mother) to hundreds of Indian children, wrote articles, notes of encouragement, poems and songs from her bed. Pray with the children and ask God to help them serve Him like Amy Carmichael did.