



women's ministry

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*A Chance to Die:
The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael*
by Elisabeth Elliot



:: BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS ::

The following questions are to help you read carefully and consider what God may have to teach you through the life of Amy Carmichael. We encourage you to write the answers to as many questions as you'd like, and note any other thoughts or questions you would like to share during the discussion at the Book Club.

CHAPTER 1 - How did Amy's training as a child prepare her for life as a missionary?

CHAPTER 2 - The death of her father upset the happy, peaceful, predictable routine of Amy's home life. It was noted that, "had she been born a hundred years later, she would very likely have been encouraged to express her anger and generally disintegrate." Instead, what was her response? What connection do you see between the expectations of others and your own reactions to the trials you face?

CHAPTER 3 - Jude 1:24, "Thou art able to keep us from falling," would become a life verse for Amy. Has the Lord impressed upon your heart a verse which sustains you during trying times?

CHAPTER 4 - At the beginning of this chapter, Amy's mother told the children about the destitute state of their finances. What did she do that set the tone for trusting God?

CHAPTER 5 - Find the place in this chapter where the inscriptions over the doors of the Milan Cathedral are described. Write them here along with your response.

CHAPTER 6 - Explain why leaving the D.O.M. was so difficult for Amy. Think of a time when God has asked you to give up something dear to your heart. How did He honor your sacrifice?

CHAPTER 7 - When God closes one door He often opens another. What door did He open for Amy, and what did it cost her? Think of a time when God has done this in your own life.

CHAPTER 8 - What prompted Amy to put away her English clothes?

CHAPTER 9 - Amy was keenly aware of her own helplessness, awkwardness, and ignorance. What did she do in response to this?

CHAPTER 10 - What was Amy's fear when praying for the demon-possessed man? How did God answer her prayers?

CHAPTER 11 - What three things are cited in this chapter as ways God reveals His will for our lives? What circumstances did He use at this point in Amy's life to move her from Japan to China?

CHAPTER 12 - What struck you as Amy described a typical day in her life?

CHAPTER 13 - Amy is briefly given back to the D.O.M. only to face a second heart-wrenching parting. Explain how God used circumstances once again to redirect her ministry.

CHAPTER 14 - The title of this chapter is “Fashionable Christianity.” What was so distasteful to Amy about this type of Christianity?

CHAPTER 15 - Briefly describe the role of the East India Company in the history of India’s development.

CHAPTER 16 - Amy notes, “How can the heathen know that He is the Lord when God is not sanctified in these people called by His name?” What was lacking in these believers’ lives?

CHAPTER 17 - What obstacles had to be overcome for a woman in the “high caste” to become a believer in Christ? Do you see any similarities in our society?

CHAPTER 18 - What significance did a woman’s jewels hold in the Indian culture? Why did the band of women believers put them away, and how did God use this as a witness?

CHAPTER 19 - Why did Amy's account of the mission field cause such controversy in England, and why was she compelled to be so blatantly honest?

CHAPTER 20 - How would you describe what God did for little Preena? What is the significance of this little girl having been the first one rescued?

CHAPTER 21 - What does, "children tie the mother's feet" mean?

CHAPTER 22 - From what you've read (and any research you have done), how would you describe the caste system? How did God prepare Amy for the bitter-sweet experiences during this year of growth in the ministry with the temple children?

CHAPTER 23 - Amy taught her servants in the ministry that the "mother-work" they did, like any other honest labor, was God's work, if done for Him. The nature of your work makes no difference. This was hard for people raised in India's caste system to believe and understand. Do Christians in our culture believe and understand this? Do you?

CHAPTER 24 - What do you learn from the way Amy handled criticism from other Christians?

CHAPTER 25 - What do you think of Amy's simple approach to the physical and practical parts of living? Where do you think this came from?

CHAPTER 26 - One of the rules of living in Dohnavur was, “Never about, always to.” How did this establish trust in the family?

CHAPTER 27- What did Amy mean by: “We are not asked to see. Why need we when we know?” Think of a Bible verse that you know that applies to the situation you face today. Make the prayer/poem at the end of the chapter your prayer.

CHAPTER 28 - What do you think of Amy’s decision to never take a furlough?

CHAPTER 29 - Arulai’s new illness was “another of those grave trials which give us a chance to prove the things we believe.” What do you believe that, with faith, will be proven as you face your current trial?

CHAPTER 30 - What do you think of the vows that the sisters, who wanted to be part of the family, were required to agree with and confess?

CHAPTER 31- Men who could serve in the Dohnavur family were harder to find than women. Why do you think this was so?

CHAPTER 32 - “Jesus, Savior, dost Thou see when I’m doing work for Thee? Common things, not great and grand, carrying stones and earth and sand? I did common work, you know, many, many years ago; and I don’t forget. I see everything you do for Me.” What is a very little thing in your life that could be made a great thing by your faithfulness to do it for Him?

CHAPTER 33 - Amy now became thankful for her brown eyes, which she once prayed to become blue! What request have you prayed for, and God said “no”? Can you now rejoice that He said “no”?

CHAPTER 34 - What do you think of the friction between Amy and Stephen Neill?

CHAPTER 35 - What do you learn from the boy who answered, “I am just a Christian,” and from Psalm 119:63?

CHAPTER 36 - “Remember, our God did not say to me, ‘I have something greater for you to do.’ This life is not greater, but it is different. That is all.” What do you think of Amy’s decision to never marry?

CHAPTER 37 - Why is medical work done in India, in Amy’s day and today, an effective mission field?

CHAPTER 38 - Do you think Amy’s views and rules regarding modesty were appropriate in that culture, place, situation and time?

CHAPTER 39 - What does “preaching the gospel” mean to you?

CHAPTER 40 - What is significant about the fact that Amy gave nicknames to people and places?

CHAPTER 41 - How do you think Amy handled being served when she became an invalid?

CHAPTER 42 - At this point Amy was very well-known and respected for her writings, leadership and responsibilities. How do you think she remained so humble?

CHAPTER 43 - From what you’ve learned about Amy Carmichael after reading about her, how would you describe her?

CHAPTER 44 - Do you think it is okay for parents or teachers to have favorites or show favoritism toward one over another?

CHAPTER 45 - Why do you think Amy thought it was so important to keep the kids of Dohnavur so sheltered?

CHAPTER 46 - As Amy prepared for her death and the future of DF, what were her main concerns?

CHAPTER 47 - What can you learn from the way Amy handled conflict and disagreements? Reread the last words of this chapter in quotes. What is your response?

CHAPTER 48 - Amy Carmichael read a lot and wrote a lot! If you knew your time on earth was short, would you write letters? If so, to whom?

CHAPTER 49 - What in this chapter gives you encouragement as you face changes in your life or ministry?

CHAPTER 50 - In what situation in your own life do you see “a chance to die”?

CHAPTER 51 - Even though your personality, life, location, ministry, and culture may be very different from that of Amy Carmichael’s, what have you learned from her life story that can help you along your own journey in faith?



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