The Ten Commandments

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

Story

One night when Amy Carmichael was a child, she prayed for blue eyes. Amy thought that blue eyes were the most beautiful eyes of all. She awoke the next morning and ran to the mirror. Her mother heard her screaming. Her eyes were still brown!

Her mother told her that God had given her beautiful brown eyes for a reason, but Amy wasn't convinced. Years later, as a missionary in India, she found out why.

Amy grew up in Belfast, Ireland, the oldest of seven children. While attending a Christian conference as a teenager, she felt a call to serve Christ. She began an outreach to young women in the slums of her city. In 1895, she was commissioned as a missionary to India, where she heard about children given to Hindu temples as prostitutes. To rescue the girls, she had to visit the temples herself. Dressed in a sari with her skin stained, she passed as Hindu. Now she understood her brown eyes, for blue eyes would have been a giveaway.

Through her fifty-six years as a missionary in India, she rescued over one thousand girls from temple prostitution. In response to a young woman who asked what her life was like, Amy thoughtfully wrote that she believed being a missionary gave her a chance to die.

Discuss one-on-one or in small groups the following questions.

1. What did Paul mean when he wrote "I die every day" (1 Corinthians 15:31)? *As Christ's power takes hold of us, God's people march to a higher calling. Instead of working to amass possessions, they store up treasures in heaven by serving God.*
2. What did Amy Carmichael mean when describing missionary work as a chance to die? *In dying to ourselves, God's people find the rewards of a new life in Christ and as servants in His kingdom. Taking up our crosses, we join in endeavors of eternal worth, helping to bring others to Jesus.*
3. How can we keep our possessions from possessing us? *We can find ways to use our talents and possessions to serve Christ and give God glory. True contentment can be found only in Him.*