

LEFT TO TELL: DISCOVERING GOD AMIDST THE RWANDAN HOLOCAUST  
(Discussion Questions)

1. Before reading this book, how familiar were you with the 1994 genocide that occurred in Rwanda? How much did you know about Rwanda and this region of Africa? What did you know about the Hutus and the Tutsis? What have you learned?
2. How would you describe Immaculee's life prior to the genocide? Were you surprised in any way about what it was like to grow up in Rwanda?
3. Upon reading this book, did you discover any prejudices within yourself? If so, explain.
4. In the introduction on page XX, Immaculee states that she believes God had spared her life and that she learned that being spared is much different than being saved. What did she mean? Why do you think she was spared while over a million other people weren't?
5. Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? Have you ever been a victim of prejudice? If so, how did you react?
6. On page 37, there is mentioned a popular radio station in Rwanda called RTLM. Immaculee called it a "radical hate machine, spewing out anti-Tutsi venom." Do you watch or listen to political media? If so, what attracts you to the programs that you view/listen to? Do you ever watch/listen to programs with views opposite of yours? What is the danger of watching/listening to programs with extreme or biased views?
7. Have you ever fought in a war or could you ever imagine yourself fighting in a war? How did you/would you prepare yourself for battle? How did you/would you handle the fear?
8. Do you think what happened in Rwanda could happen in the United States? How do you feel about being a U.S. citizen after reading this book? Do you think the United States should have done more to help the citizens of Rwanda or do you think we did enough? Should the U.S. get involved when citizens of foreign countries are having their human rights violated? If so, how involved should we get?
9. What was your impression of Pastor Murinzi? Did you like him?
10. Have you ever tried to pray when you were desperately afraid? Were you ever so angry that you couldn't pray for your enemies?

11. How would you describe Immaculee's faith? How did her faith develop through her ordeal? Where did she get her strength?
12. How is it possible for groups of people to brutally slaughter other human beings—even with their own hands—and be blind to the evil that they are doing?
13. On page 118, Immaculee states, *"I knew that whatever I envisioned would come to pass if I had faith and visualized it with a pure heart and good intentions, and if it were something God thought was right for me. It was then that I realized I could dream and visualize my destiny."* Do you believe this to be true?
14. What did Immaculee learn about her boyfriend, John?
15. Over 1 million people were killed in the Rwandan genocide. Do you think some of those people had faith as strong as Immaculee's and prayed just as fervently? If so, why were not these people spared? Do you think Immaculee's faith in God had anything to do with her being spared?
16. Were you surprised that the Tutsi women were saved by the French?
17. Why do you think that chapter 17 is entitled, "The Pain of Freedom?"
18. On page 178, Major Ntwali says to Immaculee in disapproval, *"Don't talk to me about God or the devil—I know who did this. You can forgive all you want to, Immaculee, but maybe you haven't looked into as many mass graves as I have. The people who filled those graves are still out there, and believe me, they don't deserve your forgiveness. They deserve to be shot, and I intend to give them what they deserve. I'll forgive them when they're dead."* Do you agree with Major Ntwali? Do you believe that the devil caused the genocide?
19. Immaculee states on page 190, *"I was living proof of the power of prayer and positive thinking which really are almost the same thing. God is the source of all positive energy, and prayer is the best way to tap into His power."* Do you agree that prayer and positive thinking are almost the same thing?
20. On page 199, Immaculee says, *"We all shared in the misery that descended upon the village, but I knew that the people gathered around me had lost much more than I had. They'd lost their faith—and in doing so, they'd also lost hope."* Why do you suppose that some people can live through an ordeal like Immaculee did and not lose their faith, while others cannot? Do you think your faith could withstand the same kind of trials as Immaculee's?
21. Immaculee visits the man who murdered her family, Felicien, in jail and forgives him on page 204. The burgomaster, Semana, had a furious reaction and said, *"What was that all about, Immaculee? That was the man who murdered your family. I brought him to you to question...to spit on if you wanted to. But you*

*forgave him! How could you do that? Why did you forgive him?"* What is your response to Semana's reaction?

22. How did the genocide affect Immaculee's relationship with her brother Aimable?
23. Immaculee was very specific when she requested a husband from God. She even sketched what he would look like. One of her stipulations was that he must be a Catholic because of Immaculee's great love of the rosary, the Virgin Mary, and other aspects of Catholicism. Do you think people should only date others of the same religion? Why or why not?
24. How does one even begin to forgive the people who are responsible for slaughtering one's family? Do you think you are capable of the same kind of forgiveness as Immaculee? What is the most important thing that you have learned from reading this book?