

Discussion Questions for IN BLACK AND WHITE by MaryAnn Diorio

NOTE: *These questions may be used in a variety of ways, including book-club or reading-group discussions, in Bible-study groups dealing with the topic of racism, prejudice, rejection, and other topics related to the division among human beings.*

1. Tori struggled with rejection issues as a result of not being wanted by her parents, especially her father. Have you ever struggled with rejection from your parents or another loved one? How did you handle it? True freedom comes when we grasp the truth that God will never reject us. He accepts us as we are because He created us. Are you looking to God to reveal to you your true identity, or are you looking to your family, friends, or the world?

2. Why do you think racism exists? Scripture teaches us that all of us descend from Adam and Eve. So, all of us have the same original parents. Why, then, would skin color matter? We must realize that we have an enemy named Satan. His goal is to steal, kill, and destroy. He desires division in families, churches, and ethnic groups. What can you do to foster unity, reconciliation, and understanding in those groups where you notice division?

3. What does Tori and Jeb's relationship show about the power of love to overcome racism? Their love was beyond romantic. It was *agape* love—the true love of God. Are you loving with *agape* love? The thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians describes *agape* love. Is there an area of *agape* love in which you need to improve? If so, how are you going to change your behavior?

4. Jeb was betrayed by his own brother. Have you ever been betrayed? How did you feel? How did you respond? Betrayal often comes from those we love most. How does forgiveness remove the sting of betrayal?

5. Tori looked to her father for her identity and spent most of her life feeling rejected. Where alone should we look for our identity and why?