

Discussion Questions for *The Captain and Mrs. Vye* by MaryAnn Diorio

1. Loretta Vye had put all of her trust in her husband to take care of her. Granted, she lived in the 19th century when women had far fewer opportunities for financial gain, but she had given no thought to the eventuality of her husband's premature death. Have you ever been in a situation where you did not plan ahead? How did you handle the situation? Did you wish you had planned ahead? Scripture says this in Proverbs 27: 12 NLT: "*A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.*" What is the balance between planning ahead and trusting God?
2. Edward Vye did not share his financial burdens with his wife. Do you think he did the right thing in not telling her so as not to worry her? Or do you think he should have laid bare the facts and engaged her advice? How should a husband and wife handle their finances?
3. Money problems are the biggest cause of divorce. God calls us to be stewards of the money He has given us. What does this mean? If you are married, how do you and your spouse handle finances? Do you consult God's Word?
4. It too a tragedy for Loretta to discover her inner strength. Have you discovered that you did not know how strong you really were until tragedy struck? God gives us grace in time of need. When we feel we have hit bottom, God is there to meet us and pick us up. Share an experience in your life when you felt hopeless and God came through for you.
5. Loretta had put her trust in man and not in God. Why is this dangerous?
6. Jeremiah had developed a friendship with Tom Brogan but, surprisingly, was betrayed by a man he trusted. Have you ever been betrayed by a friend or loved one? How did you feel? What did you do? Jesus was betrayed by Judas. He knows how you feel. Have you forgiven the person who betrayed you?
7. Have you ever betrayed someone in word, thought, or deed? Have you sought God's forgiveness and the forgiveness of the person you betrayed? If not, why not?
8. Jeremiah carried his own baggage with the loss of his wife and child. Have you ever lost a spouse or a child? How did you handle your deep grief? Did you seek help or support from those who love you? Did you feel God's presence in a special way? Jesus promised never to leave us or forsake us. He is always with us, especially in our times of deepest need.