

# *Left To Tell* – Summer Reading for Junior Religion

Please answer all parts to the following questions and submit to Turnitin.com before the first day of school. Use Enrollment Key **JrTheoSummer** and the **Class ID 17935441**.

- **Questions SHOULD BE NUMBERED.**
- **All work must be done individually. This is your first impression as students on your Junior Theology teachers, please make it a positive one.**

1. Throughout the book *Immaculee* was surprised at how ordinary people could hold such hatred and be swayed from friend to foe.

- Discuss this transition and site examples.

2. Compare and contrast the RPF and the Interahamwe.

3. How would you describe *Immaculee's* family of origin?

- How similar or different is it from your own?

- What role does the Catholic faith play in their every day lives?

4. It is clear that being Tutsi or Hutu was critical in Rwanda's history.

- Can you think of any time in our history when being a certain nationality meant something as significant?

- What was the general response to such national identity?

5. Have you ever experienced discrimination because of who you are—because of color, gender, nationality, faith, etc.?

- How did you respond to those who held you down? How do you remain firm?

- What sustains you? If you have not experienced discrimination, how might you respond to those who seek to prevent you from doing something or being a certain way?

- From what would you draw strength?

6. *Immaculee's* family home became a haven for their Tutsi and moderate Hutu neighbors in the wake of the president's death and the mounting violence.

- What does it mean to offer sanctuary to others?

- What was the cost to the family?

- What is the cost to us as we offer sanctuary to others today?

- Why is it the right thing to do?

7. In hiding in Pastor Murinzi's small, cramped bathroom *Immaculee* mentions hearing the "devil whisper in her ear." For her, that is an experience of doubt and fear and a question of faith.

- Have you ever had a similar experience?

- What does doubt or a question of faith look like to you?

8. In chapter 11, titled "Struggling to Forgive," *Immaculee* writes, "But try as I might, I couldn't bring myself to pray for the killers. That was a problem for me because I knew that God expected us to pray for everyone, and more than anything, I wanted God on my side."

Think about the social tragedies of our day—September 11, 2001, war, injustice in all its forms, -

- What does it take for you to find peace?

- What helps you pray for those responsible for the tragedies or events that confront us?

- What does praying for the resolution of these situations and those responsible for them ask of you personally?

9. If you were in Imaculee's shoes would you have been able to forgive these killers? Why or why not?

10. Pastor Murinzi told his children to take a good look at the Tutsi women who had been hiding in the bathroom. He told them, "If you have a chance to help unfortunates like these ladies in times of trouble, make sure you do it—even if it means putting your own life at risk. This is how God wants us to live."

- What scripture passages does this message to his children bring to mind for you? Please share and explain why?
- What does his message to his children instruct us to do?

11. What is the message of hope Immaculee's story leaves with you at the conclusion of this second section of the book?

- How is it that hope and forgiveness go hand in hand along Immaculee's journey?
- Along your own journey?

12. In the field camp Immaculee is reunited with Jean Paul, an old friend. While conversing with him about all the killing that has occurred Immaculee comments, "...the genocide is happening in people's hearts...the killers are good people, but now evil has a hold on their hearts."

- What are the issues of our day and time that are occurring in people's hearts?
- What is the evil that has a grip on many hearts preventing them from doing what God would have them do?

13. After a conversation with the captain of the camp Immaculee notes, "The captain's anger made me think that the cycle of hatred and mistrust in Rwanda would not be easily broken."

- What has been your experience with the cycle of hatred and mistrust?
- How can we begin to break the cycle in our own relationships? In our society?

14. Immaculee, reflecting on her whole experience comments, "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."

- How has reading Immaculee's story impacted your life of prayer?
- Do you share her understanding of prayer and positive energy?
- How do you tap into God's power in your life?

15. The gruesome details of the genocide in Rwanda remind us of the power of evil alive in our world today.

- What are you willing to do to help stop evil and social sin?
- How will you advocate for peace in all corners of our world?
- How will you respond to refugees who come to us from similar situations?

16. What is Immaculee's responsibility to Rwanda/the people of Rwanda now that she has been saved?

17. Site one way that another country did or did not respond to the genocide as it was happening.

- Why do you think the rest of the world did little to nothing to help the situation?