

Jasmine

by April McGowan

Discussion Questions:

1. Because of her childhood experiences, Jasmine finds it very hard to trust anyone but herself, and that gets in the way of her trusting God. Do you have times when it's easier or harder to trust God with areas in your life?
2. How impactful was it on Jasmine's life to have someone like Brandi who believed in her? Was there ever a person that changed your life because they were there for you? How did that feel and what happened?
3. Jasmine felt running away was the best solution to her problems. In many ways, that just added to them. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like running away from your problems was the best solution? How did that turn out?
4. At one point, Bill confides he's been praying for Jasmine for her whole life. Do you think prayer makes a difference in your life? Have you ever had anyone committed to praying for you every day (or do you pray daily for anyone)? What did that feel like to you?
5. In the beginning of the book, Jasmine only goes by Jazz—her tough, streetwise name. But by the end of the book, she's letting her walls down and becomes Jasmine once again. Has there ever been a time in your life you wished you could turn into

- someone else? Who did you want to become?
6. Both Jasmine and Bill grew up hiding the reality of their abusive father—they even felt like they were lying—something neither of them could stomach. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like you had to lie to stay safe? How did that effect the rest of your life and how you felt about yourself? What did you do to resolve it?
 7. Jasmine discovers God has been working in her life through others all along—He never left her nor forsook her. Has there ever been a time in your life you felt forgotten by God? What happened? How did God reveal Himself to you again—or are you still waiting?
 8. Jasmine feels like there are sins in her life that are unforgivable. But, through the story, she finds that through Jesus, every wrong in her life can be erased and she can approach God once again. Even so, she still feels like she needs to punish herself. Has there ever been a time in your life you felt unforgivable? Have you been able to claim the promises of forgiveness through Jesus offered by God, or are you still holding back, punishing yourself?
 9. The Bible says in Romans 3:23-26, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness,

because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.” How do you feel when you read that verse?