Book Group Discussion Questions for *Kate’s Song* by Jennifer Beckstrand

1. Kate is faced with a difficult, heart-wrenching choice. Have you ever had to make a difficult choice? What things aided you in your decision? Do you think you made the right choice?
2. Nathaniel says, “God watches over all of us. But if the way were easy, how could we grow into who He wants us to be? How could our faith become unshakable?” How have you seen the truth of this statement in your life?
3. Someone once said, “The villain in a book is the hero of his own story.” In what ways is Aaron a sympathetic character, and how is he the hero of his own story? What motivates him to do what he does?
4. Nathaniel’s father had a stroke right after Nathaniel was baptized. Why do bad things happen to us even when we are trying to do good?
5. The Amish believe in non-resistance. They do not even believe in defending themselves against an attack. Nathaniel feels devastated after he protects Kate. Kate thinks that her actions in fighting off an attacker are enough to make Nathaniel reject her. What do you think about non-resistance?
6. Some people in Kate’s community look down on her for her choices. Why should we not judge others?
7. Nathaniel’s mother tries to protect him from getting hurt. Are her actions justified? If you are a parent, have you ever tried to shield your children from the consequences of their choices? What has been the outcome?
8. How does the Amish way of life make things more difficult for Nathaniel and Kate?
9. Kate has an experience that convinces her to choose to stay in the community. Why does she shut her eyes to that experience later on? What does it mean that trials can make us bitter or better?
10. Why do you think the story about the teacher and his students touches Kate so deeply?
11. When Kate is baptized, she is required to give up her music. Is her sacrifice worth it?