Book Group Discussion Questions for *Miriam’s Quilt* by Jennifer Beckstrand

1. Why does Ephraim think he and Miriam are better than Seth Lambright? Why are we commanded not to judge people?
2. Do you agree with the way Miriam reacted to Susie’s secret? How can our pride get in the way of showing compassion? How were Ephraim’s reaction and Miriam’s reaction different? What about her parents’ reaction?
3. In the book, Yost wants to buy a car, and Seth’s sister Laura wants to leave the community. The Amish go without many modern conveniences in order to avoid the temptations of “the world.” What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of living such a simple lifestyle?
4. Seth tells Miriam: “People are always more important than what they have done.” What does this mean?
5. Yost accuses Miriam of only loving him when he behaves. In what ways do we make our love conditional in our relationships? How can we learn to love as Jesus loves?
6. Seth tells Miriam, “We shouldn’t consider our trials a curse from God for some bad behavior or believe that God does not love us if He lets us suffer. The greatest One of all was perfect and sinless, yet He suffered.” When something bad happens to someone, it’s normal to seek a reason, to tell ourselves that they somehow deserved the bad thing. Even Jesus’ disciples asked Jesus who had sinned to cause a certain man to be born blind. Why do bad things happen to good people?
7. How does Seth come to grips with his mother’s death? Why do bad memories make good memories that much more precious?
8. Miriam’s next task is to forgive the boy who “would not bridle his passions.” How are we benefited when we keep commandments and make good choices?