

Reading Group Guide for  
*A Place in His Heart*  
by Rebecca DeMarino

1. What do you think the theme of *A Place in His Heart* is? Is there more than one?
2. In chapter 1, Mary tells her sister that she wants to marry for love and have a family like Lizzie does. How does Lizzie react when Mary tells her that she wants to marry the baker? Do you think Mary's goal changed?
3. How did growing into womanhood without her mother affect Mary?
4. The term *Puritan* was first used as a derisive name against those who sought purity in worship and doctrine. Can you think of labels we use today that serve only to divide?
5. In seventeenth-century England, it became increasingly dangerous to be a Puritan. At Mary and Barnabas's wedding dinner, do you think Barnabas was justified in lying about his plans to go to the New World? Do you think it served his own purpose to not reveal his plans to Mary? Is it ever okay to lie? Under what circumstances today do you think someone might lie to protect their faith? Their family?
6. Mary finds comfort in the same Anglican customs that Barnabas seeks to change. She quietly genuflects as the ship is leaving the port, sailing to a new way of life. Do you think God cares more about if we pray than how we pray or where we pray? Why or why not?
7. Mary treasures her green dress and intends to bring it with her. In the end she leaves it behind. Did she make the right decision, or did she give up a part of herself when she left it?
8. What cultural and social customs shaped the events of the story?
9. In chapter 26, Winnie says that Mary dislikes Patience without really knowing her. Do you think it was Mary's fear that held her back? Have you ever been in a situation where that has happened? How did you handle it?

10. Barnabas was torn between his love for his first wife and his desire to be a good husband to Mary. What held him back from loving Mary, or do you think he loved her but could not acknowledge it?
11. Mary longs for family. In how many ways do you think she found it?
12. Mary believed if she could master the art of homemaking, Barnabas would give her the kitchen tongs and his love. Barnabas believed God would bless him if he worked hard to find the place where God would use him. Do you believe faith requires good works?



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