

Companion Guide

*For God in the In-Between:
A Daughter's Story of Faith, Family & Healing*

Study Guide for Pastors & Leaders

"To plant a seed is to believe in tomorrow." — Hmong proverb

"Behold, I am making all things new." — Revelation 21:5

Introduction

This *Companion Guide* was born as an extension of **God in the In-Between: A Daughter's Story of Faith, Family & Healing**.

It is not a textbook, nor a manual to master. It is meant to walk beside you — like a companion on a journey. The guides inside are arranged for different audiences: readers, pastors, scholars, and the next generation. Each one offers themes, questions, and reflections to help you enter more deeply into your own story while holding the story I have shared.

The word *companion* comes from the Latin *com* (“with”) and *panis* (“bread”). A companion is one you share bread with. In the same way, this guide is an invitation to sit at the table with your own life, to break open your story, and to see what fruit God may bring from it.

You will notice that I use the phrase **Study Guide**. That word signals structure — a way to pause, notice, and name what is stirring in you. But beyond study, this is about communion: discovering how your life, your history, and your faith intersect with the God who meets us in the in-between.

Whether you are reading as an individual, with a small group, in a classroom, or in a church community, may this guide give you permission to reflect honestly, listen deeply, and plant new seeds of healing.

Take your time. Linger on the questions that open your heart. Skip the ones that do not. There is no rush, no race. Only the invitation to walk slowly, with God and with others, into the garden of your own becoming.

A Note from the Margins

This companion guide is not polished for perfection. It is born from wounds and wonder, written in the in-between where God met me. What you hold in your hands is not curriculum. It is testimony. It is seed. It is the work of God through a daughter of the margins. Enter it gently. Enter it honestly. Enter it as holy ground.

To those who shepherd, who hold stories in your hands, who stand in pulpits or living rooms — this is for you. Leadership is not only about vision but about tenderness. In these pages, may you be reminded that your first call is not to fix, but to accompany. Not to master, but to serve. Not to control, but to cultivate Eden-spaces where all belong.

Study Guide for Pastors & Leaders

For God in the In-Between: A Daughter's Story of Faith, Family & Healing
New Eden Invitation Edition

Introduction

This guide is for those called to shepherd, teach, and lead. It invites you to reflect on how ministry intersects with culture, identity, and the in-between spaces where many of your people live.

Your role is not just to lead with authority, but to cultivate gardens where others can belong. These questions are for your own reflection as you discern how to hold God's people with both truth and tenderness.

Part I: The Girl Who Loved Deeply (Chapters 1–4)

Themes: Childhood Faith, Identity Formation, Belonging

- How does cultural identity shape the way people experience church?
- Where do you see “children of the in-between” in your ministry?
- How might you create spaces of belonging for those who feel like outsiders?

Part II: The Cost of Being Chosen (Chapters 5–8)

Themes: Calling, Sacrifice, Ministry Crossroads

- How have you experienced the cost of answering God's call?
- Where might you need to release cultural or institutional expectations to be faithful?
- What sacrifices are worth making for reconciliation?

Part III: Ascending Home (Chapters 9–11)

Themes: Generational Healing, Near-Death Moments, Spiritual Bridges

- How can pastors walk with families across cultural and spiritual divides?
- What role does storytelling play in healing trauma?
- How do you honor generational differences in faith practice?

Part IV: This Is How We Heal — Selah (Chapters 12–14)

Themes: Restoration, Reconciliation, Wholeness in Community

- What does reconciliation look like in your own ministry context?
- Where do you see opportunities to plant “Eden spaces” of rest and healing in your community?
- How might you bless those who will lead after you?

Final Exercise

Take time to:

- Identify one cultural divide in your ministry.
 - Pray over how God may be calling you to bridge it.
 - Begin one small step toward reconciliation this week.
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Closing Word for Pastors and Leaders

As you finish, may you carry forward the reminder that your flock is not only those within your walls. The margins are also your pasture.

May your leadership be marked not by perfection, but by presence.

Go plant gardens of reconciliation. Go, bless those who will lead after you.

Go and remember: even shepherds are sheep, carried in the arms of the Good Shepherd.

Selah.