

Companion Guide

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

Study Guide for Scholars & Students

"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 read with questions, who wrestle with history, who study the faith with pen in hand — this is for you.

Scholarship is not only about what you discover but about how you listen. Let these questions remind you that testimony belongs beside theory, and that the voices at the margins are not footnotes but sacred texts in themselves.

Study Guide for Scholars & Students

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

Introduction

This guide is for those who study theology, culture, and history. It invites you to wrestle with the intersections of personal story, diaspora, and faith.

Scholarship is not only about analysis — it is about listening, naming what has been erased, and reframing the story for generations.

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

Themes: Identity, Diaspora, Cultural Roots

- How does the author's Hmong identity reshape how you think about Christian narratives?
- What parallels exist between Hmong displacement and other diasporic communities?
- Where do you see erasure in dominant theological or historical accounts?

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

Themes: Faith, Agency, Margins and Centers

- How does this memoir complicate traditional views of “calling” and “ministry”?
- What happens when marginalized voices are silenced in theological discourse?
- How do you hold both critique and love for the institutions you study?

Part III: Ascending Home (Chapters 9–11)

Themes: Generational Trauma, Near-Death Vision, Spiritual Bridge

- How do stories of near-death experiences function theologically across cultures?
- What frameworks help us interpret spiritual visions outside Western categories?
- What does this memoir contribute to conversations about generational trauma and reconciliation?

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

Themes: Restoration, Memory, Renewal

- How do personal narratives challenge or enrich dominant historical records?
- Where might scholars need to make room for testimony alongside data?
- What does “healing” look like in the work of scholarship?

Final Exercise

- Identify one area of your field where stories like this are missing.
 - Commit to naming or preserving a silenced story in your research or teaching.
 - Reflect on how scholarship itself can be an act of reconciliation.
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Closing Word for Scholars and Students

May your research not only analyze but also heal.

May your teaching not only inform but also liberate.

May your writing not only critique but also create space for new life.

Leave here with humility, knowing scholarship itself can be an act of reconciliation. And may the stories you carry remind you that knowledge, at its best, becomes love.