

A Companion Guide for

Before Abraham Was,

I AM

*Expositions on the
I AM Statements from Scripture*

S e c o n d E d i t i o n



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from Scripture, Second Edition*
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100 Ways to Show Your Faith

God With Us

Keepers of the Gate

Mama's Prayers

The Fishers

*This Companion Guide is dedicated to my oldest and dearest friend,
Col. Steve Wayne, USAF (Retired).*

*You have been my friend like a brother for almost fifty years,
and you have shown me a life dedicated to your
family, church, and country.*

*Above all, you are an example of loving and serving
the One who said those profound words: I AM.*

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Note to the Reader

Before Abraham Was, I AM supports the themes of the Divinity of Jesus Christ, His unity with the Father, and the purpose of His being sent to provide eternal salvation for mankind. This companion guide uses the REAP approach—Reflect, Examine, Apply, Pray—to guide students through God’s Word toward genuine discipleship and finding their place in God’s Kingdom.

This companion guide may be used by individuals or small groups.

Answers to questions presented in each chapter’s “Examine” section are provided in a separate “Answer Prompts” section at the back of the companion guide.

The companion guide for each chapter, as well as the book Introduction, follows this format:

Reflect

Read the text, as well as all “focus” and “support” passages of Scripture. Ask God to open your mind and heart to His discernment.

Examine

Answer who, what, where, when, why, how, and fill in the blank questions.

Apply

Ask yourself the following pertinent questions: What is God teaching and/or leading me to think, feel, do? How do I use this scriptural truth? What does God have for me? What tangible steps can follow this chapter?

Pray

Engage in meaningful prayer by following prayer prompts related to the chapter. Pray for God's further revelation. Pray for His kingdom.

Introduction

John 20:31

Reflect

Read the Introduction and ask God to open your heart and mind to Him.

Read and reflect on the current scripture passage.

Examine

1. In which Gospel account is the presentation of Jesus as the Messiah found more strongly?

2. What are two evidences of this?

3. How is the ministry of Jesus presented?

4. What are two key words in John's Gospel writing?

5. What did the miracles John recorded mean to convey?

6. According to John 20:31, what are the purposes of his "witness" accounts?

Apply

Just as you rediscover a new understanding of Jesus through this book, ask God to help you see even more “signs” in His Word and in our world today to further help point you, and through you, point others to Jesus.

Pray

Make this your prayer. Focus and enlarge on it in the days to come.

*“Holy God, teach me about your One and Only Son,
who said, ‘Before Abraham Was, I AM,’ and help me
learn more about Him, His relationship with You and my
role in Your kingdom.”*

ONE

I AM WHO I AM

Exodus 3:1–15

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 40:13–14, 25

Isaiah 55:3, 6, 8–9, 11

Jeremiah 29:11

Romans 11:33–36

Reflect

Read Chapter One and ask God to open your heart and mind to Him.

Read and reflect on the current scripture passage and supporting Scriptures.

Examine

1. More than a mere display of force or power, what was God promising Moses in verse 12?

2. On what does verse 13 indicate the Israelites' relationship with God may have been based?

3. What are some key words and phrases from this exposition that describe what our relationship with God must be (and not be) today?

[illegible]

4. What are some human characteristics we assign to God to help us understand Him?

5. Everything else in creation came to be, but only God “_____.”

6. It would be _____, not _____ who would lead His people to freedom.

7. What enables us to feel God’s presence daily?

Apply

Spend time with God exploring these thoughts and questions.

(1) Spend some reflection time recalling more examples of human and other characteristics assigned to God in Scripture for our understanding of Him. Use this to compile a list to use in personal worship.

(2) What am I doing to encourage learning more about the name and character of God to grow in my faith?

(3) Am I closer to God right now than I was last year, last month, or last week?

(4) What am I doing to encourage others to be closer to Him?

(5) Is my relationship with Him growing?

(6) If not, what will I do about that right now?

Pray

Pray for God to help you learn more about His promises for your life.

Pray for God's power to be at work in your life, home, church, service, and witness.

Pray to be more aware of God's presence every day. Make note of how you feel God moving in your life through your senses, though daily worship and interaction with others. Keep a God Journal of the ways God makes His presence known to you.

Review the list of qualities you compiled in a “must-be” relationship with God, and pray for this in your life.

Ask God to lead you to someone individually or in a small group setting in which to hold each other accountable for growing in your faith relationship.

TWO

Who Do You Say I Am?

Matthew 16:13–23

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 18:18

John 17:4

John 7:16–18

John 8:50, 54

1 Peter 2:4–8

1 Corinthians 3:11

Ephesians 2:20–21

Revelation 1:18

Romans 10:9

Reflect

Read Chapter Two and ask God to open your heart and mind to Him.

Read and reflect on the current scripture passage and supporting Scriptures.

Examine

1. Peter said that Christ is the _____
_____ on which the _____
of the apostles and believers are built into a _____
_____.

2. The Apostle Paul used the illustration of a building foundation,
and said that we can only build on the _____
_____ that is already laid, which is only _____
_____.

3. In Ephesians, Paul also describes Christ Jesus as the . . .

_____.

4. Jesus established the church on Himself because He is the only
One with the _____
necessary to conquer _____
_____.

5. The church is built on Christ alone, but He uses all of us who
_____ Him to become _____
_____ in the temples of His kingdom.

6. The passage gives a view of what the church really is. Who are the ones who make up the church?

7. What are some false ideas of the meaning of church membership today?

8. To expand on this thought, what are some false ideas people have on obtaining salvation?

Apply

Spend time with God exploring these questions.

(1) Jesus clearly teaches that God's kingdom is not just waiting for us in heaven. Begin a study starting with New Testament references to kingdom in a good concordance.

(2) Write the three word confession from Romans 10:9.

It is not enough to speak it or write it. You must breathe and live it every day. What are you doing to intentionally exemplify these three words in your life?

(3) Should we really make distinctions between “secular” and “religious” in our lives?

Weekdays and weekends? Our time and God’s time?

As I approached college graduation and was struggling with career choices, a respected counselor and friend told me, “Don’t try to figure out what part of your life you are going to control, and what part you are going to give God. It doesn’t work that way. There is only one question you need to answer. Are you willing to give God *all* of your life?”

(4) What are some areas of life Christians may be reluctant to yield to the Lordship of Christ?

Pray

Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal areas in your life you may not have yielded to His Lordship.

Following the Model Prayers in Matthew 6 and Luke 11, begin to incorporate more references to God’s kingdom and His reign over us in your personal and corporate prayers.

Pray for ways to refer to your place in God’s kingdom in daily conversations with others.

Jesus is asking, “Who do you say I am? Who am I to you?” Pray with urgency for ways to show others that Jesus reigns over all areas of your life.