

The With-ness of our God by Jan Loyd

LEADERS GUIDE:

With adaptations for homeschools, family devotions, and classrooms

Dear leader

Thank you so much for leading a group through these awesome little Scripture words we call *prepositions*. Since they, by definition, are all about *relationship*, when we come across them in Scripture, we can grow in our understanding of our intimate and stabilizing relationship with our Lord. May you and your group never be the same as a result of this study...that is my prayer!

Here are a few opening suggestions as you begin:

- Be sure to read through the entire study ahead of time so as to see “the big picture.” This can be done quickly and at a *level 1* study plan (see introduction).
- Reading through will also help you decide whether to take one or two weeks per chapter. Or you may also decide to only take two weeks for particular chapters because of the depth and/or length of the material. There may also be scheduling considerations, such as holidays etc. You know your group, so it’s totally at your discretion. Just be sure to let your group know ahead of time.

Be sure to note that there is a special short section following this one for homeschool parents/teachers. That section may also be helpful for those who want to use this study for their own personal devotions as well as with their own children or a children’s Bible class.

Suggested Meeting Format

- **Worship**

Use a song or hymn of your own choosing or see the suggested songs within the chapters or in the attached file.

- **Opening prayer**

Pray above all for the illumination of the Holy Spirit to open minds and hearts to spiritual truth on the heart level, not just the head. And, of course, pray whatever the Lord puts on your heart.

- **Lesson introduction**

Introduce the primary preposition and its meaning.

State the “big idea” of the chapter, with the preposition being the “key word” in our relationship with God. You can do this in a Q&A format.

- **Discussion**

You may want to draw a chart on the board using topics, 5 W's & H (see appendix), or other related material from the chapter itself &/or from your own background study or knowledge. Then lead the group through the material in the chapter related to the preposition.

- **Application to life**

This may be best done as you go along in discussion or it can be done at the end. The Holy Spirit will *highlight* what He intends to drive home.

You can also pull discussion questions from the book and have the members discuss with a partner or small group at their table.

You may also want to summarize at this point.

- **Worship and prayer**

Close with an appropriate song and prayer. You can also have the members pray with each other in small groups then end with the song.

Class Announcements

This can be a challenge because we hate to disrupt the atmosphere surrounding the worship and prayer. We always want to leave room for the Holy Spirit to work in hearts.

Perhaps the best way to handle announcements is to give them before starting worship and prayer at the beginning of the lesson, and then briefly remind before worship at the end. Just try to sense what the Holy Spirit may be doing.

Devotions for the Leader

Be moved, carried along by the Holy Spirit:

<http://www.abranchinthevine.com/carried-along/>

Serve God's purpose in your generation:

<http://www.abranchinthevine.com/serving-gods-purpose-in-my-fleeting-days/>

Reflect upon the awesome truth: *Christ in you and through you, as you:*

<http://www.christinyou.net/pages/inasthrough.html>

Helps for Home School teachers (and classroom teachers)

This study could be done as a family educational and devotional project. One chapter/preposition could be the emphasis of the month.

The home school teacher will want to adapt the exercises suggested to the needs, interests, and maturity level of her student.

As a side note, the book as written has been tested and used with a high school homeschooler with great success. The young man responded well biblically as well as devotionally.

If you like to follow a “church calendar” approach, you may find Chapter 2 particularly appropriate during Advent leading up to Christmas; chapter 3, during Lent leading into Holy Week; and then chapter 4, at Easter time. The final chapters then flow nicely to round out the study. The final two chapters may be moved around without disturbing the flow of thought.

If you have used this study with children or youth of any age and would like to share your insights, would you email me at jan@abranthinthevine.com? I would so appreciate your input!