

Notes for House Churches / Small Groups

SERIES: Names of God

God is known by many names throughout the Old and New Testaments. Quite often we read these names in English and fail to grasp their message. God's names throughout Scripture always reveal a unique aspect of His character to us. This week and next week we are going to look at a couple of Hebrew names that God is known by in Scripture.

Week 1: Jehovah Raah - The Lord my Shepherd	
 <p>5 – 10 min</p>	<p>Icebreaker suggestion: Did you have a nick name growing up? What did your best friends call you?</p>
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">WORSHIP</div> <p>10 – 15 min</p>	<p>Idea: Listen to Jon Foreman's interpretation of Psalm 23. Then read Psalm 23. Did God highlight anything new to you about Himself? Thank God for this. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKD42vUG1wo</p>
 <p>5 min</p>	<p>Input: Jehovah Raah – The Lord my Shepherd. <i>Jehovah</i> is written in most mainstream English translations as Lord or LORD, essentially indicating that the corresponding Hebrew is actually <i>Yahweh</i> or <i>YHWH</i> – The Sacred Name – the covenantal name that God's people know Him by. Jewish people hold such reverence for this name (Yahweh) that they do not even speak it, instead replacing it with 'Adonai'. It is the personal name of God and also indicates that God is transcendent and the source of all being.</p> <p><i>Rô'eh</i> from which <i>Raah</i> is derived, means "shepherd" in Hebrew. An extend translation of this word is "friend" or "companion." This indicates the intimacy God desires between Himself and His people. When the two words are combined - Jehovah Raah - it can be translated as "The Lord my Shepherd" or even "The Lord my Friend."</p>
 <p>20 min</p>	<p>Texts and Questions for Discussion/Application: If you're honest, how do you tend to picture God in your mind? Describe this to the group. Do you picture Him as distant or close; angry or kind; gracious or vengeful?</p> <p>Read Ezekiel 34:11-16. How does this passage enhance or alter your picture of God?</p> <p>Read Psalm 23 again. How is God your shepherd? Do you see that in your life?</p> <p>Read Isaiah 41:8 and Genesis 48:15. Richard Blackaby once wrote: "It is one thing to call God your friend. It is quite another for God to call you His friend." Do you relate to God as your friend and shepherd? How does the knowledge that God also calls <i>us</i> friends impact how you approach Him and respond to Him?</p> <p>Sheep trust in their Shepherd, as indicated by the words of Psalm 23. Share a time when God grew your trust in Him.</p>
 <p>10 min</p>	<p>Corporate Prayer & Looking Out: Write out a prayer to God your Shepherd and then share this prayer with the group. Who in your life needs to know God as their shepherd? Pray for them too.</p>