

THE NAME JEHOVAH

5. Jehovah Raah

Leader's Notes



INTRODUCTION

One of the most well-known and loved titles for God in the Old Testament is found in Psalm 23. It is the name Jehovah Raah, the Lord is my Shepherd. This name speaks of an individual and personal relationship with God, and when we have that relationship with him, we have everything we need. Let's look at Psalm 23 to see what that means.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

- ✧ What does our Shepherd provide for us? Look at the following verses and then discuss what each one means? Verses 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5, 6.
 - V2 *He provides all the nourishment I need.*
 - V3a *He restores my soul.*
 - V3b *He guides me and shows me the right way to go.*
 - V4 *He is present with me in difficult times.*
 - V5 *He protects me when the enemy attacks.*
 - V6 *He pours his goodness into my life and promises that I will be with him forever.)*

- ✧ What do you think it means when it says his rod and staff will comfort us? Psalm 23:4
(The rod was used to ward off any wild animals that attacked the sheep, so this represents the Lord's protection from outside attacks. However the rod also speaks of God's loving correction when we go astray. The staff was used to guide and direct the sheep, so both the rod and staff bring us comfort, as we know God will protect, correct and guide us when we go through dark difficult times.)

- ✧ How does Psalm 23:6 give us hope and certainty for the future?
(We have the assurance that God's goodness and love will always follow us as long as we live, and that we will live with him forever.)

This wonderful name, Jehovah Raah, the Lord is my Shepherd, is one Jesus used for himself. He calls himself the Good Shepherd. Let's turn to John 10 now.

- ✧ What can we learn about Jesus as the Good Shepherd from John 10:3, 4, 11, and 14-15?
 - V3 *Jesus calls his sheep by name and leads them.*
 - V4 *Jesus goes ahead of his sheep.*
 - V11 *Jesus lays down his life for the sheep.*
 - V14-15 *Jesus knows his sheep.*

✧ What characteristics identify us as his sheep? John 10:3, 4, and 14?

(V3 We listen to his voice.

V4 We follow him because we know his voice.

V14 We know him.)

✧ What wonderful assurances does Jesus give us about the future? John 10:28-29

(He promises to give us eternal life and that we will never perish. Also he assures us that no-one can snatch us out of his hands or the Father's hands.)

✧ Share what these truths mean to you.

CONCLUSION

The name Jehovah Raah, the Lord is my Shepherd, is one that speaks of our personal and individual relationship with God. In Him we have everything we need – He provides for us, protects us, and promises that his goodness will always follow us.

Jesus came to reveal God the Father to us. In John 10:30 Jesus says, "I and the Father are one." As our Good Shepherd, he has given his life for us, so we can belong to him forever. Let's always listen carefully to his voice and follow what he tells us to do.