

MY NAME IS

A TRANSFORMATION CHURCH SERIES

SERMON: *Yahweh Raah (The Lord is Our Shepherd)*

SUMMARY:

When we read the Bible, we see God described with many different names. These names give us insight into His character. Specifically, God's names describe His redemptive action in human history. Each week of this series we will explore a different name of God as described in Scripture. This week we will focus on the name *Yahweh Raah*, which translates to The Lord is Our Shepherd.

Psalms 23 gives us insight into what it means to see God as our shepherd. Take a moment now to read through Psalm 23 in the New Living Translation:

- ¹ The Lord is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.*
- ² He lets me rest in green meadows;
He leads me beside peaceful streams.*
- ³ He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to His name.*
- ⁴ Even when I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid,
for You are close beside me.
Your rod and Your staff
protect and comfort me.*
- ⁵ You prepare a feast for me
in the presence of my enemies.
You honor me by anointing my head with oil.
My cup overflows with blessings.*
- ⁶ Surely Your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the Lord
forever.*

As we read through Psalm 23, take note of three elements: (1) *Yahweh Raah* graciously provides you with His presence, (2) *Yahweh Raah* strengthens and guides you through the darkest valleys of life, and (3) *Yahweh Raah* is your host, and He pursues you with His goodness and unfailing love. In the Gospels it is revealed that Jesus is our Great Shepherd who loves us sacrificially.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

In the Old Testament, a shepherd's job was to protect his flock and guide them to good pastures with plenty of food and slow-moving, easily accessible water. Guiding the flock of sheep to a good location was an extremely important task for a shepherd because good pastures kept his flock healthy. Keep this word-picture in mind as you discuss the questions below.

Read Matthew 11:28.

What is the promise Jesus makes in this verse?

Why is rest important?

What burdens have you been carrying?

Read Romans 8:39.

What can separate us from the love of God?

Why is this an important truth to remember?

How have you felt God's guidance during the valleys of life?

In Psalm 23 we read that God pursues us.

With what does God pursue us (vs. 6)?

Why does God pursue us?

What is your response to God's goodness and unfailing love?

Read John 10:11.

Who does Jesus say is the Good Shepherd?

What does the Shepherd do?

Read John 10:27.

Who are the sheep?

What do the sheep do?

How is Jesus calling you to following Him in this season?

End your time in prayer.