



## WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

October 2, 2022

### Week 3 Jehovah Raah

Welcome to our Discussion Guide - designed to help you think more deeply about the sermon topic as you engage with others through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and real-life application.

#### ➤ KEY PASSAGES

Psalms 23, Philippians 4:19, John 10:1-30  
1 Peter 2:25

#### ➤ CONVERSATION STARTER

**What is one thing that brought you joy this past week?**

**What is one thing you did this past week to bring joy to someone else?**

#### ➤ QUICK REVIEW

This week we focus on the familiar passage of Psalm 23. While it is very likely that you have heard this passage before, be careful not to tune out, but instead, lean in and pay close attention to what God wants to say to you today.

This Psalm is often read as a means of comfort in times of difficulty or trial. Whether or not you are currently facing difficult times,

this passage points us to God our Shepherd, who guides us through whatever we are facing.

#### ➤ EXPLORATION

Read this passage out loud together.

**Psalm 23:1-6 (ESV)** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

#### **What stands out to you from this passage and why?**

In this passage God is called Jehovah Raah, The word Raah is most often translated "to feed". Another extended translation of this word is the idea of a friend or companion.

When we put these together we get:

- Jehovah = LORD, to be, to exist
- Raah - to feed, to shepherd

The Bible often talks about people as sheep. Some examples include:

- **Isaiah 53:6** - All we like sheep have gone astray.
- **Psalms 95:7** - He is our God, we are the flock under his care.
- **Psalms 100:3** - We are his people, the sheep of his pasture
- **Matthew 9:36** - Jesus sees people as sheep who are harassed and helpless
- **Matthew 10:16** - Jesus sends the disciples out like sheep among wolves

### ***Psalm 23:1-2***

In his book, "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23", Philip Keller makes the following observations:

#### 4 Requirements for a Sheep to Lie Down

- (1) due to their timidity, they must be free from all fear.
- (2) because of their sociability, they must be free from friction.
- (3) they must be free from flies or parasites if they are to relax.
- (4) they will not lie down unless free from hunger.

It is only the shepherd who can provide the release from all these anxieties.

**Where do you usually turn for comfort when you feel anxious, irritated, hungry or generally stressed out?**

### ***Psalm 23:3***

**Describe a time when the Lord has refreshed your soul.**

### ***Psalm 23:4***

Notice the shift here from "He" to "You". The writer seems to be moving from thinking of God looking after all sheep toward a more personal reflection on how God is working in

his own life. He moves from talking **about** God to talking **with** God. It is interesting that this shift comes as David is talking about walking through the darkest valley.

"Our lives are lived in the company of both the Shepherd and the shadows."

~Eugene Peterson

**In what way have you experienced living in the company of both the Shepherd and the shadows?**

### ***Psalm 23:5***

Here we see God as one who welcomes us and provides lavishly for our needs.

**What Does Jehova-Raah teach us about God?**

- **Our Shepherd Cares**  
***Matthew 11:28-29***
- **Our Shepherd Nourishes**  
***Philippians 4:19***
- **Our Shepherd Guides**  
***John 10:10-15, 27***

**Which of these do you need most right now? Why?**

### ***Psalm 23:6***

**Share about a time when you experienced the goodness and mercy of God.**

### **➤ TAKE AWAY**

We serve a God who cares, nourishes and guides us every step of the way. As you take time to pray together, ask God to help you become more aware of how he is caring, nourishing and guiding you this coming week.

Take time to pray that each of you will be aware of the ways God is your Shepherd this week.