

# SERMON NOTES - His Name is... SHEPHERD

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

## Using these notes and this message

There are 3 ways to watch or listen to this message, and various ways to use it:

Access to the Message	Use the Message		
	Play the Video	Preach it Yourself	Small Group Discussion
The <b>full video message</b> (around 26 minutes) can be watched on our <a href="#">website</a> .	In larger settings. See guidance notes <a href="#">below</a> .		✗
A <b>shorter version</b> (7-11 minutes) with small group discussion questions can also be found on our website.	In small groups. See Notes <a href="#">below</a> .		
An <b>audio</b> podcast - on our <a href="#">app</a> , <a href="#">soundcloud</a> , or <a href="#">itunes</a>	Personal listening		

Below you will find the following notes ...

[1 - A summary of this talk, and various ways and Ideas for how to use the themes](#)

[2 - How to Preach a Sunday Sermon](#)

[3 - How to lead a Small Group](#)

[4 - Small Group Bible Study Questions and Guidelines for this message](#)

[5 - Expanded Notes of the full Sermon](#)

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## 1 - A summary of this talk, and various ways and Ideas for how to use the themes

Due to the nature of the video messages, a sermon preached on video/TV generally contains much more information than should be presented when preaching "live".

Video messages also don't include as many personal stories and anecdotes as would be shared in a personal sermon.

For this reason, when preaching this message "live", it is advisable for you to pick one or two of the main themes, ideas, or points below, and focus on them, adding your own stories and experiences, and your own personality.

### THE BIG IDEA

God's name is SHEPHERD. You can rely on this part of His nature. Do YOU know Him as Shepherd?

### THE MAIN THEMES & SUB IDEAS EACH OF WHICH COULD BE DEVELOPED INTO A SERMON ON ITS OWN

You could use one or more of the following themes and ideas and craft a whole sermon out of any of these:

1. **\*\*The Name of the Lord\*\***: The talk emphasises the significance of knowing and relying on the name of the Lord, particularly focusing on the name "Yahweh" or "I am that I am" from Exodus 3:14. (Exodus 3:14, Proverbs 18:10)
2. **\*\*The Lord as Shepherd\*\***: Drawing from Psalm 23, the speaker explores the metaphor of God as a shepherd, emphasising His role as protector, provider, and guide for His people. (Psalm 23)
3. **\*\*Provision and Rest\*\***: The talk highlights God's provision and the rest He offers to His people, likening it to the green pastures and still waters that a shepherd provides for his sheep. (Psalm 23)
4. **\*\*Soul Restoration\*\***: It discusses how God restores the soul of His people, bringing emotional, mental, and spiritual healing and strength. (Psalm 23, 2 Timothy 1:7)
5. **\*\*Guidance - Paths of Righteousness\*\***: The speaker elaborates on the concept of being led in paths of righteousness, aligning with God's intended way of living as described in Scripture. (Psalm 23, Jeremiah 6:16)
6. **\*\*Presence in Adversity\*\***: The talk emphasises God's presence and protection even in the midst of challenges and trials, using imagery from the valley of the shadow of death. (Psalm 23)
7. **\*\*Abundance and Blessings\*\***: Lastly, the speaker discusses the abundance and blessings that God provides for His people, symbolised by the image of a banquet, anointing with oil, and overflowing cups. (Psalm 23)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS BASED ON THIS TALK

1. Reflecting on the significance of names, particularly the name "Yahweh" or "I am that I am," how does understanding the names of God impact our relationship with Him? How does relying on His name provide a sense of security and assurance in our lives? (Scripture reference: Exodus 3:14)
2. In Psalm 23, the imagery of God as a shepherd is prevalent. How does this metaphor deepen our understanding of God's care, provision, and guidance in our lives? How can we practically apply the concept of God as our shepherd in our daily walk with Him? (Scripture reference: Psalm 23)
3. The talk highlights the idea of God restoring our souls. What are some ways in which we experience soul restoration in our lives? How does God's restoration bring about emotional, mental, and spiritual healing? (Scripture reference: Psalm 23, 2 Timothy 1:7)
4. The speaker discusses the concept of being led in paths of righteousness. How do we discern God's leading in our lives, especially when faced with difficult decisions or challenges? How can we align our lives with God's intended way of living as described in Scripture? (Scripture reference: Psalm 23, Jeremiah 6:16)

## 2 - How to Preach a Sunday Sermon

The SUNDAY sermon is normally not an in depth teaching time (this is usually done in other times and settings). Usually the Sunday Sermon achieves 3 main goals:

- It attracts non believers,
- It inspires believers and
- It educates everyone.

A sermon should not be too long (30 minutes is a good maximum time).

The mood and tone is important as people will often remember a FEELING more than information. People must sense and feel the love, joy and excitement of Jesus and the Christian life along with being motivated by GRACE, rather than legalism, guilt or religion.

### A 4-Point Checklist for Sermon Preparation ...

- 1) You** must be able to articulate in your own mind what the talk's one big message is. You should be able to state this in one sentence before you give your talk, and this would also work well as the introductory sentence of your talk..

**1 BIG  
IDEA**

It should be a compelling and motivating idea that is captivating and important, and it must have HELPED YOU in your life. If it is real for you, it will be real to those who hear you. As a general guideline, this idea should inspire people to faith, hope and action, and it is based on joy rather than on legalism or duty.

- 2) To** back up and support your big idea, you should have around 3 main points which are helpful and along the same theme. People should be able to follow your logical progression and see how the three points back up the main idea. You can have more than three points if you are making the same point from several different angles OR if you are using several different Bible verses to support the same idea.

**3**  
—  
**SUPPORTING**  
*Points*

- 3) For** each point you make, you should try to have one **story** or a **personal example** that illustrates what you are saying. They give a window to your sermon, allowing light to shine in, and bringing your points to life. Without illustrations, your sermon could feel like it's all "facts". Illustrations and stories engage people's imagination and emotions, and can show how the truths you are speaking of have impacted and affected you in a personal way.

**ILLUSTRATIONS  
&  
STORIES**

- 4) There** should be a practical way that people can apply what you have said – it should change people's lives, and you should conclude with this application. There is a **general** life application – "how will I live differently going forward?" – and there is also an **immediate** application – "what is God saying to me right NOW?" Encourage people to "do business with God" right then and there and to make decisions or commitments if necessary. This "life application" can be a good conclusion to your talk, OR the main idea that you started with can also be helpful as a concluding summary.

**PRACTICAL  
APPLICATION  
AND SUMMARY**

## 3 - How to lead a Small Group

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like those below:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.

## 4 - Small Group Bible Study Questions and Guidelines for this message

### OUTLINE OF THE SHORT VIDEO MESSAGE

The short video is a summary of Psalm 23 highlighting the blessings and benefits of knowing God as Shepherd.

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THIS SHORT VIDEO

1. How does the imagery of God as a Shepherd resonate with your personal experiences of God's presence and help in challenging times?
2. In what ways do you perceive God's guidance in leading you along paths of righteousness in your daily life?
3. When facing trials or uncertainties, how do you find comfort in the assurance of God's presence and protection, as depicted in the shepherd's rod and staff?
4. Spend some time thanking God and praying specifically for each person's needs.

## 5 - Expanded Notes of the full Sermon

### INTRO - God Has given us His name

He revealed His name to Moses:

Exo 3:13-15 NKJV - "13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"

14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." ["*HYH, HYH*"] And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM ["*HYH*"] has sent me to you.' " 15 Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD ["*YAHWEH*" "*YHWH*"] God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations."

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### The benefits of knowing His name

Pro 18:10 NKJV - "10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe (*set on high*)."

Revelation 3:12 NKJV — "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. (cf Rev 2:17 "*a white stone, and ...a new name which no one else knows* ")

Mar 16:17-18 NKJV - "17 "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.""

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### Psalm 23

<p><u>Psa 23:1-6</u> NKJV - "1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to <u>lie down</u> in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the <u>paths of righteousness</u> For His <u>name's sake</u>. 4 Yea, 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. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever."</p>	<p>I will never lack. <i>Cf Psa 37:25</i> Rest and provision. The shepherd takes care of me. Healing for the soul (<i>mind, will &amp; emotions</i>). <i>Cf 2Ti 1:7</i> He leads us. The paths are important. <i>Cf Jer 6:16</i> His NAME is upon us and we rely upon it, thus this is all for "His name's sake". We are not exempt from hardship but He is with us. <i>Cf Jn 16:33</i> His Rod and Staff are helpful. <i>See below.</i> <i>Cf 1Co 16:9</i> <i>Cf 1 Pe 4:14</i> <i>Cf 2 Co 2:14</i> Follow or "Chase after" me my whole life and into eternity. He will never leave me.</p>
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### He restores my soul

2Ti 1:7 NKJV - "7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

### Paths of Righteousness

Jer 6:16 NIV - "16 This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'"

### 3 categories in the Old Testament Law:

1) Civic / judicial rules and regulations for society that are no longer directly applicable as they were for that specific society and time. Eg. Ex 21:28-36

2) Ceremonial rules relating to the temple and priests. Jesus fulfilled these completely - Heb 9:12 NKJV - "12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."

Heb 8:6, 13 NKJV - "6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. ... 13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away."

3) The "Righteous requirements of the Law". These still apply as the way God wants us to live, though the "curse" of punishment has been removed by Jesus.

Rom 2:26 NKJV - "26 Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?"

Rom 8:4 NKJV - "4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

### The valley of the shadow of death:

Jhn 16:33 NKJV - "33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.'"

### God's Rod & Staff

Luk 10:19 NKJV - "19 "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

Heb 12:5-11 - God disciplines (not punishes) His sons whom He loves to keep us from harm.

### A table in the presence of enemies

1Co 16:9 NKJV - "9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."

2Co 2:11-16 NKJV - "11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices. 12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord, 13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia. 14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. 15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?"

Psa 110:2 NKJV - "2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!"

1Co 15:25-26 NKJV - "25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."

### Jesus is the Good Shepherd

Jhn 10:1-11, 14, 27-28 NKJV - "1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 "Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. 7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am



the door of the sheep. 8 "All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ... 14 "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. ... 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

1Pe 4:14 NKJV - "14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified."

2Co 2:14 NKJV - "14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place."

#### Human "under-shepherds" and Christ the Good / Chief Shepherd

1Pe 5:1-4 NKJV - "1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away."

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## THE NAMES OF GOD

1. JEHOVAH (YAHWEH) **JIREH** (THE LORD WILL **PROVIDE**) Gen 22:14.
  2. JEHOVAH (YAHWEH) **RAPHA** (THE LORD WHO **HEALS**) Exd 15:26.
  3. JEHOVAH (YAHWEH) **NISSI** (THE LORD MY **BANNER**) Exd 17:15. Moses, recognizing that the Lord was Israel's banner under which they defeated the Amalekites, builds an altar named Jehovah-Nissi (the Lord our Banner).
  4. JEHOVAH (YAHWEH) **MEKODDISHKEM** (THE LORD WHO **SANCTIFIES** YOU) Exd 31:13. Lev 20:8
  5. JEHOVAH (YAHWEH) **SHALOM** (THE LORD IS **PEACE**) Jdg 6:24. the name of an altar built by Gideon in Ophrah.
  6. JEHOVAH (YAHWEH) **SABAOOTH** (THE LORD OF **HOSTS**) over 285 References of the name Jehovah Sabaoth in the Old Testament.
  7. JEHOVAH(YAHWEH)-**RAAH** (THE LORD MY **SHEPHERD**) Psalm 23.
  8. JEHOVAH (YAHWEH) **TSIDKENU** (THE LORD OUR **RIGHTEOUSNESS**) Jer 23:6; Jer 33:16
  9. JEHOVAH (YAHWEH) **SHAMMAH** (THE LORD IS **THERE**) Ezekiel 48:35.
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