

July 27, 2025: Names of God

Theme #6: Immanuel: God with Us

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-14

- 1) Three weeks ago in this sermon series, Gideon asked God for a series of signs. Now in Isaiah, God tells Ahaz to ask for a sign. Do you ever ask God for signs, or do you know people who do? How has God responded? What sense do you make of the place of signs in helping you love God and neighbor?
- 2) How might seeking signs draw us away from love of God and neighbor? (See Matthew 4:5-7 and Matthew 16:1-4).
- 3) How do you find the balance between welcoming signs and demanding signs of God? Talk to another disciple of Jesus about how they find their balance.
- 4) Jeremiah (last week) and Isaiah (this week) and Ezekiel (this week, if you hear Roger's sermon) are the three major prophets of the Bible's prophetic books. Before these weeks, what was your conception of prophets and prophecy? After these weeks, how has that changed or stayed the same?
- 5) When was the earliest time that you experienced that God was/is with you? Share the story of that experience with someone else.
- 6) Are there times, places, or actions in which you feel most strongly that God is with you? Is there one step within your power today to bring yourself into one of them?
- 7) Are there times, places, or actions in which you feel that God must surely be somewhere else? Is there one step within your power today to bring yourself out or away from them? If you are currently in a time when God feels distant from you, no matter what you could possibly think to do or not do about it,

spend some time with Psalm 139, and let both God and a human friend know how you feel.

- 8) As we are concluding this series, is there a name of God which has great importance to you personally, but which we did not talk about? Share that name and what it means—both literally and personally—with someone in your life this week.
- 9) As we are concluding this series, what name of God that we covered (Provider, Healer, Peace, Shepherd, Righteousness, God with Us) continues to resonate the most? Try addressing your prayers to God all this week by that particular name.

July 20, 2025: Names of God

Theme #5: Jehovah Tsidkenu: The Lord our Righteousness

Scripture: Jeremiah 23: 1-6

- 1) What does it mean that God promises to raise up a “righteous Branch” from King David’s line? How is this fulfilled in Jesus? (See also Isaiah 11: 1-5; Luke 1:32-33)
- 2) The word "Righteousness" can be a difficult word to understand and relate with. How do you seek to understand this word? Does it help to understand the word Righteousness as “Right Path?” Psalm 23 says, “He leads us along right paths...for his name’s sake.”
- 3) Why is the title “The Lord our Righteousness” significant in the context of Jeremiah’s time, when leaders were corrupt and unjust? Jeremiah is literally calling out Shepherds who were intentionally misleading God’s people. How can you tell if a Shepherd (Pastor, Teacher, Leader) has the right motives?
- 4) How do justice and righteousness relate to each other in God’s character and kingdom? Could justice ever include civil disobedience?
- 5) What does it mean to you personally that the Lord is “your righteousness”?
- 6) Have you ever attempted to earn your own righteousness through performance or works? What was the result?
- 7) How can we, as Christ’s people, reflect God’s righteousness in a world that often calls evil good and good evil?
- 8) What are some modern examples of misplaced righteousness -where people or systems claim to be “right” apart from God’s truth? How can we respond with grace and truth?

July 13, 2025: Names of God

Theme #4: Jehovah Rohi: The Lord Our Shepherd

Scripture: Psalm 23

- 1) What is your experience with Psalm 23? Did you have to memorize it as a child? Do you associate it with funerals? Something else?
- 2) How have you experienced God leading you to good places: rest, “green pastures,” “still waters”? What have those places and times been? Who else was with you?
- 3) What would green pastures and still waters be in your life right now? (A vacation? A good meal? A nap? A hug? Practicing Sabbath or practicing Sabbath more deeply?)
- 4) To what degree do you follow God’s lead into “right paths?” Are there places in your life when you have wandered and need to repent and/or apologize, in order to get back on right paths?
- 5) Name a time in your life in which you experienced the darkest valley or (King James Version) “valley of the shadow of death”? Did God feel near? Absent?
- 6) Why might God lead you into such a place at all? What can be gained from dark valleys that cannot be gained otherwise?
- 7) Do you believe that God will indeed meet your needs? Why or why not? What about going beyond your needs (“my cup overflows”)? Why would God do that?
- 8) How might God be calling you to lead or encourage other sheep?
- 9) Spend some time in reflective prayer with Psalm 23. Share any resonances it has with your life with a trusted friend.

July 6, 2025: Names of God

Theme #3: Jehovah Shalom: The Lord is our Peace

Scripture: Judges 6: 11-24

- 1) How do you experience peace in your life? What might be an example?
- 2) God identified himself as Jehovah Shalom: The Lord is our Peace, during a time of great crisis. How do you tend to react when you experience a personal crisis? What is it that threatens your peace?
- 3) Gideon was fearful and afraid because the Midianites were ruthless and cruel. But God showed up and called him a “Mighty Warrior.” Do you think that eased Gideon’s fears?
- 4) During this crisis, God declared himself as “The Lord is our Peace.” How can we live in a place of peace, even when the circumstances of our lives aren’t good?
- 5) How can we experience peace when the problems of the world seem to be overwhelming?
- 6) Jesus said, “God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God” (Matthew 6:9). Do we need to experience peace before we can work for peace? How can we arrive at a place of peace?
- 7) One of the most quoted scriptures is Philippians 4:6-7, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Have you experienced less anxiety and peace as a result of your prayers? How can you make more room in your daily walk for mindful prayer?

June 22, 2025: Names of God

Theme#2: Jehovah Rapha, The Lord is our Healer

Scripture: Exodus 15: 22-27

- 1) We often think of healing solely in the physical sense, but God can heal spiritually, emotionally, and relationally as well. Tell of a time that you experienced healing. Tell of a time that someone you know experienced healing?
- 2) Do we talk enough about healing in the church? How can we better promote a climate of healing?
- 3) Exodus 15: 22-27, occurs right after Moses leads Israel out of Egypt and God delivers them from bondage. What does healing have to do with freedom from oppression?
- 4) God often attaches a condition to healing. In this passage, Moses reminds Israel that healing will come if they are obedient to God and follow his ways. What might God ask us to do before he imparts his healing to us? (ex., quit smoking before praying for healing from emphysema).
- 5) Do you regularly pray for your own healing? For the healing of others?
- 6) Did the ministry of healing stop after Jesus ascended into heaven?
- 7) What is one of your favorite healing stories from the Bible?
- 8) How can the church better promote a healthy lifestyle to possibly prevent or delay illness or disease?

June 15, 2025: Names of God

In the Bible, the names of God are deeply significant, offering insight into his character, authority, and the ways he interacts with His creation. Each name unveils a different aspect of God's infinite love and mercy, showing that He is not only a powerful Creator but also a personal and accessible God who is actively involved in the lives of those who call on Him. The Old Testament names of Jehovah and Yahweh are different ways of referring to the same God of Israel.

Name #1: Jehovah Jireh: "The Lord is our Provider"

Scripture: Genesis 22: 1-14

- 1) Name a few ways that God has provided for you in your life?
- 2) This is a difficult scripture, in that God is asking Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his only son. Can you identify a time when God asked you to do something that didn't make sense?
- 3) Thankfully, God was testing Abraham and stopped him before he killed his Son. This seems like a cruel trick. Couldn't have God chosen a different means to test Abraham's faith?
- 4) How do you think Abraham felt as he journeyed with Isaac to the mountain? What emotions might he have experienced?
- 5) In verse 8, Abraham says, "God himself will provide the lamb." What does this say about his faith and trust in God?

- 6) Have you ever faced a moment where God asked you to trust Him without understanding why? How did it turn out?
- 7) What does this passage teach us about the character of God, especially as Jehovah Jireh, our Provider?
- 8) How does the substitute ram point forward to Jesus Christ and God's ultimate provision for our Salvation?
- 9) What would it look like for you this week to proclaim "The Lord will provide" over your worries and needs?