



# WHO you are says WHO

AN ISAIAH STUDY ON IDENTITY & WORTH  
ACCORDING TO THE ONE WHO DETERMINES IT

{Neighborhood}  
S T U D I E S

The world lures us, our kids, grandkids, people we love & those next to whom we walk life with all sorts of things and ways to make us okay. The peace in that striving doesn't last long. But, what if we really knew who we are and who it is that says so? Would striving take a break and peace linger in its place?

By and in God, our identity is defined and our worth determined. Our significance is settled, which is a powerful concept considering all the things in this world of striving, laced with uncertainty that leave us unsettled.

So let's talk about it. God has much to say. We're going to the end of Isaiah to linger in a small portion of what our God reveals about himself and about us, his "masterpiece" of all creation.

## WHO YOU ARE

*New Creation/Masterpiece, Redeemed,  
Seen & Known, Safe, Treasured, Honored,  
Loved (Beloved), Never Alone, Daughter,  
Chosen*

## SAYS WHO

*Creator, I Am, Lord over All, Savior, Authority,  
Word, Redeemer, Provider, Banner, Shield,  
Protector, there is no other*



## W E E K O N E: A NEW CREATION says ELOHIM

Genesis 1, Ephesians 2, ISAIAH 40, 41 & 43

“But now thus says the LORD,  
**he who created you**, O Jacob  
**he who formed you**, O Israel.  
*Isaiah 43:1*

We are a divine work of art.

*C S Lewis*

Tim Keller asks “Do you know what it means that you are God’s workmanship? What is art? Art is beautiful, art is valuable, and art is an expression of the inner being of the maker, of the artist. Imagine what that means. You’re beautiful, you’re valuable, and you’re an expression of the very inner being of the Artist, the divine Artist, God Himself.

“You see, when Jesus gave Himself on the Cross, He didn’t say, ‘I’m going to die just so you know I love you.’ He said, ‘I’m going to die, I’m going to bleed, for your splendor. I’m going to re-create you into something beautiful. I will turn you into something splendid, magnificent. I’m the Artist; you’re the art. I’m the Painter; you’re the canvas. I’m the Sculptor; you’re the marble. You don’t look like much there in the quarry, but I can see. Oh, I can see!’ Jesus is an Artist!”<sup>i</sup>

We are God’s *workmanship* or as translated in the NLT, *masterpiece*. The Greek word for workmanship is “poiema” which gives us our English word poem or poetry. Theologian of old Sam Gordon beautifully described our lives as “the papyrus on which the Master is producing a work of art that will fill the everlasting ages with His praise.”

You. Us. God’s creation, his Imago-Dei. The only part of creation molded by his hands. The only into whom he breathed his breath of life – in the Garden at Creation, and eternally at the Cross. We are made new through Christ who fulfilled God’s justice and deems us righteous. We “do” nothing, he has done everything. For us. We are made righteous, complete, whole, eternally okay.

*Is there a time in your life when you felt (o wanted to feel) treasured, exceptionally special like a masterpiece? How does the fact that God declares you as such inform your worth?*

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WHO YOU ARE: A NEW CREATION, A MASTERPIECE

Begin with prayer, "Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word."

**Read Genesis 1:26 – 2:25.**

Though the story is likely familiar, try to read it with fresh eyes, taking note of what we can learn about God as all-powerful Creator.

Upon prayerful reading and pausing to think/notice, take a few moments to jot down your observations. They can be simple or complex; they can be questions or ideas, maybe even answers to questions you've pondered before. What do you notice? What stands out to you? What is specifically noted about God, his creation, his creation of man and woman? What did he say about Creation? How did God care for Creation? What is man's purpose? How are humans unique in creation? What else ....

What do you notice? What stands out to you? What would like you to ponder further? This is for you – for your contemplation and edification as we grow in knowledge of who we are according to whose we are.

Horizontal lines for writing observations.

There are no surprises and nothing is outside of his complete and undisputed authority. Sin is a part of this story – which leads us to ...

**Read Ephesians 2:1-10.** Upon prayerful reading (even re-reading) and pausing to think/notice, take a few moments to jot down your observations. Look at the words, the verb tenses, modifiers, repeated phrases, etc. What do you notice? What stands out? What do we learn about ourselves? What do we learn about Christ?

Is there anything you find hard to believe? Why might that be? Upon whose authority and in whose power are any of these bold statements true and made available to us?

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But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,<sup>23</sup> to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,<sup>24</sup> to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (Hebrews 12:22-24)

**SAYS WHO: CREATOR, ELOHIM**

*Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." It literally says, "In the beginning Elohim, Elohim created the heaven and the earth." That's the Hebrew word from two root words: El, which means strength and unlimited power. And the last part of is allah, which means to keep a promise. Elohim is also a plural noun. I believe that right here on the threshold of the Bible we see an indication of the nature of God, as shown in the Holy Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three were present in creation (see John 1:3). Aren't you glad we find the Savior in chapter 1, verse 1? Aren't you glad we find the Holy Spirit in chapter 1, verse 1? Aren't you glad we find the Father in chapter 1, verse 1 of the Word of God?*

*- Adrian Rogers*

The first name of God we see in Scripture is found in Genesis 1 – **Elohim**, The All-Powerful One, **Creator**. God alone is the all-powerful creator of the universe. He spoke creation into existence and breathed life

into all creatures – above and below the waters that were anchored by land and sky and light and dark – ruled over by man the only being created in God’s image.

**Elohim** is repeated in almost every verse of Genesis 1, introducing not only creation but a plural noun in relation to it. The basic meaning behind the name *Elohim* is one of strength or power of effect.

**Elohim** is the infinite, all-powerful God who shows by His works that He is the creator, sustainer, and supreme judge of the world.

- Ken Hemphill

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read Genesis 1:1 – 2:2.**

Go back to Genesis, read & take note of what we can learn about God as all-powerful Creator. Ask God (Creator) to reveal himself in new and pertinent ways in order to inform your life and day today.

What happens when God speaks? What can we learn about God and order. Is there anything about God’s chosen order of creation that surprises you or further informs upon further consideration?? How can we see His provision through Creation (whether his name Jehovah Jireh, Provider, has been revealed or not has no bearing on the fact that He is).

What can we learn about relationship and purpose as we are introduced to the Trinity who are three yet one? Where do we see each at work in creation?

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**Read Isaiah 40.** Make a list of what the prophet Isaiah reveals of God (with simple Scripture reference, ex: God tends his flock like a shepherd, gently leads, ... ). List anything you learn about: who He is, the things He says/speaks, the things He does (explicit/implied.)

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**Read Isaiah 41.** Make a list of what THE LORD GOD (as he is speaking!) reveals about from himself about himself. List anything you learn about: who He is, the things He says/speaks, the things He does (explicit/implied.)

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Elohim is God, the Maker of the universe and the Supreme Creator of all life. Elohim emphasizes God's power and strength as demonstrated in His creating something from nothing – literally the heavens, the earth and all that is in them.

Creator sets him above all, in all and overall – how might that Truth inform our day today? How does this impact you in consideration of the fact that God declares you "masterpiece", a "new creation? Thoughts?

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God created us in joy and created us for joy, and in the long run not all the darkness there is in the world and in ourselves can separate us finally from that joy, because whatever else it means to say that God created us in his image, I think it means that even when we cannot believe in him, even when we feel most spiritually bankrupt and deserted by him, his mark is deep within us. We have God's joy in our blood.<sup>ii</sup>

- Frederick Buechner

SONG OF THE WEEK: [Elohim](#) (Hillsong)



W E E K T W O:

REDEEMED says YHWH

Genesis 1, Ephesians 2, ISAIAH 40, 41 & 43

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you.”

“For I am Yahweh, your Elohim,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

**Isaiah 43:1, 3**

The Son of God became a man  
to enable men to become sons of God.

*C S Lewis*

*The word redeem means “to buy out.” The term was used specifically in reference to the purchase of a slave’s freedom. The application of this term to Christ’s death on the cross is quite telling. If we are “redeemed,” then our prior condition was one of slavery. God has purchased our freedom, and we are no longer in bondage to sin.*

*The benefits of redemption include eternal life (Revelation 5:9-10), forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7), righteousness (Romans 5:17), freedom from the law’s curse (Galatians 3:13), adoption into God’s family (Galatians 4:5), deliverance from sin’s bondage (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:14-18), peace with God (Colossians 1:18-20), and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). To be redeemed, then, is to be forgiven, holy, justified, free, adopted, and reconciled.<sup>iii</sup>*

Redeemed is freedom, the freedom for which Christ has set us free (Galatians 5:1). God’s freedom for the nation of Israel from slavery in Egypt is a story within the greater story - our freedom from the slavery of sin. We are redeemed, ransomed, reconciled, rescued by, in and through Christ.

“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life” Titus 3:4-7.

*Is there a time or experience in your life where you have or someone you love experienced God’s redemption or rescue?*

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*For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.*

*Psalm 130:7*

God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say. Yes, to be sure, but he does what is still more wonderful: he makes saints out of sinners.

- Soren Kierkegaard

#### WHO ARE YOU?: REDEEMED

Begin with prayer, "Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word."

**Read Exodus 14:10-31** – rescued

**Read John 4: 1-42** – a story of redemption

**Read Colossians 1:13-23** – redemption

Upon prayerful reading and pausing to think/notice, take a few moments to jot down your observations. Simple or complex; questions or ideas, anything that comes to mind – even answers to questions you've asked before. Maybe begin with the 5 w's: who, what, when, where & why – always a good place to start.

In the passages: what do we learn about redemption? about rescue? Who, how and why? What do we learn about Jesus? about God, about ourselves? About reconciliation? What stands out to you? Where do you see God's power? How can that power inform today? What else ....

What stops us from "continuing in our faith" (Col 1:23)? Where can we keep our hope? our faith? What words are used to describe our redeemed selves? How can that inform our identity today? What does peace look like to you?

Exodus:

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We are redeemed, set free...

Free to walk in the heights without fear. Free from self. Free from shame and condemnation. Free from the tyranny of others' opinions, expectations, and demands. Free to obey. Free to love. Free to forgive others as well as ourselves. Free to allow others to be who they are—different. Free to live beyond the limitations of human effort. Free to serve and glorify Christ!<sup>iv</sup>

– Chuck Swindoll

SAYS WHO: YHWH – YAHWEH (JEHOVAH)

*God's name is almost always translated LORD (all caps) in the English Bible. But the Hebrew would be pronounced something like "Yahweh," and is built on the word for "I am." So, every time we hear the word Yahweh, or every time you see LORD in the English Bible, you should think: this is a proper name (like Peter or John) built out of the word for "I am" and reminding us each time that God absolutely is.*

*...God never had a beginning. God will never end. If he did not come into being he cannot go out of being, because he is being.*<sup>iii</sup>

*- John Piper*

YHWH (Jehovah, Yahweh) is the most frequently used name of God in the Bible. The sacred name, commonly translated LORD (in all caps) and believed to hold the power of the one God, was only spoken aloud once a year by the high priest within the Holy of Holies of the Temple. It was used by God to define himself in Exodus 3.

According to Mark Driscoll, "Yahweh is a distinctly proper name for the God of the Bible. Because it is sacred, it is never used to refer to any pagan gods; neither is it used in regard to any human. It is reserved solely for the one true God alone. The name Yahweh appears some 6,823 times in the Old Testament, as he is the focus and hero of the Scriptures."<sup>iv</sup>

Yahweh is the personal and intimate name given to those crying out to be saved from their bondage: "Who should I say sent me?" Moses asked when sent by God who had heard the Israelite's cry to free them from slavery. – "This is what you are to say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent you to them.'"

An interesting side note considering Jesus's name:

*When westerners say "Jesus," We're using an anglicized version of the Greek name Iēsous, which corresponds to the Hebrew name Yeshua—a shortened form of Yehoshua. Yehoshua is made up of two parts. The prefix "Yeho" is a version of YHWH. The second part of the name comes from the Hebrew verb "yasha" which means rescue, deliver, or save.<sup>v</sup> (L♥VE!)*

Begin with prayer, "Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word."

**Read Isaiah 42:1-9, 43:8-13; 44:1-8, 44:21-28**

As you go along in each of these passages, make note of what Isaiah and God reveal about Him: who He is, character, power, authority; the things He says/speaks, the things He does (explicit/implied.) Also consider verb tenses as well as repeated words and phrases. Make note on each section you take-away and how that informs redemption, salvation, and our identity. Considering the contextual 5 W's (who, what, when, where & why) is always a fun exercise if you have time.

*I, I am he who blots out our transgressions for my own sake,  
and I will not remember your sins.*

Isaiah 43:25

Isaiah 42:1-9

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Isaiah 44:1-8, 21-28

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"... but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,"  
says the LORD, your Redeemer.  
"... For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my  
steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall  
not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.  
Isaiah 54:8b,10b

**Read Psalm 145.** Make a list of what the Psalmist reveals about YHWH (the name extoled each time God (the LORD) is referenced, except vs. 1 which is Elohim). Consider YHWH as you read and list his attributes, actions, promises, faithfulness – applying them to us today.

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If *Elohim* is God's creative and powerful name, then *Jehovah* (YHWH) is God's personal name. It is His self-revealing name because this name comes to us directly off of the question, "What is (your) name?" Essentially, when we study the name *Elohim*, we study the God who is the Creator. We can talk about His power, presence and prowess. Yet when we talk about *Jehovah*, we are talking about His person, His character.

- Dr. Tony Evans

How does YHWH impact us in consideration of the fact that God declares us redeemed, ransomed, reconciled, rescued, SET FREE? How can we apply his declaration today? Thoughts?

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Extra time?

**Read Exodus 3.**

What specifics can we learn about God? About His: power over nature, holiness, knowledge of people & events, what he sees and knows, power over earthly kingdoms, promises, his character, his relationship with us, his protection. How does his name YHWH impact and inform our identity and our circumstances today?

& here's a heady little something from our friend NT Wright:

*... the point about the Holy Spirit, at least within Paul's theology, is that when the Spirit comes the result is human freedom rather than human slavery.*

*... the more the Spirit is at work the more the human will is stirred up to think things through to take free decisions, to develop chosen and hard-won habits of life and to put to death the sinful, and often apparently not freely chosen, habits of death. Sin is what bubbles up unbidden from the depths of the human heart, so that all one has to do is go with the flow. That has the appearance of freedom, but is in fact slavery, as Jesus himself declared.*

*True freedom is the gift of the Spirit, the result of grace; but, precisely because it is freedom for as well as freedom from it isn't simply a matter of being forced now to be good, against our wills and without our co-operation ...but a matter of being released from slavery precisely into responsibility, into being able at last to choose, to exercise moral muscle, knowing both that one is doing it oneself and that the spirit is at work within, that God himself is doing that which I too am doing... when the spirit enables the Christian freely to choose, freely to develop, freely to be shaped by, freely to become that which is pleasing to God.<sup>vi</sup>*

Song: [No One But You](#) (Hillsong Worship)



WEEK THREE:  
YOU BELONG says JEHOVAH-RAAH (ROHI)

“I have called you by name, you are mine.”

**Isaiah 43:1, 3**

He died not for men, but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, He would have done no less.

- C.S. Lewis

In 1943, Abraham Maslow, an American psychologist, created a pyramid outlining a hierarchy of needs. According to his theory, five interdependent levels of basic human needs (motivators) must be satisfied in a strict sequence in order for a person to function in life. Physiological needs—food, water, breathing, and the like—form the base. Security comes next, followed by social needs<sup>1</sup> which is where we find our core needs for love and belonging. They are a part of what makes us human.

Brene Brown puts it this way:

Belonging is the innate human desire to be part of something larger than us. Because this yearning is so primal, we often try to acquire it by fitting in and by seeking approval, which are not only hollow substitutes for belonging, but often barriers to it. Because true belonging only happens when we present our authentic, imperfect selves to the world, our sense of belonging can never be greater than our level of self-acceptance.

But “self-acceptance” left to us only goes so far – a bit off from fulfilling this important core human need. The truest and only satisfying sense of belonging comes from the source, our Redeemer, who says of our most authentic selves, “I have called you by name, you are mine.” The question for us: dare we accept ourselves according to and based upon this absolute declaration? A declaration, as we learned last week, has been freely bestowed upon us according to God’s “steadfast” and “abundant” love. Dare we believe our belonging?

Here are a few belonging facts: Little children belong to Jesus and his kingdom (Matt. 19:14). The church is the bride that belongs to Jesus, the bridegroom (John 3:29). Both Jewish and Gentile Christians belong to Christ (Rom. 1:6). Christ died so that we might no longer belong to ourselves but belong to him (Rom. 7:4). Through the Holy Spirit, we belong to God (Rom. 8:9). Whether we live or die, we belong to God (Rom. 14:8). When Christ returns, all who belong to him will be resurrected (1 Cor. 15:23).

*...and another will write on his hand,*

*“The LORD’s”*

*Isaiah 44:5b*

*Is there a time or experience in your life where you have or someone you love experienced belonging or being left out? How did that impact your worth or identity?*

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“I have called you by name,  
you are mine.”  
*Isaiah 43:1, 3*

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read Isaiah 51:1-16**

**Read Exodus 3:1-12**

**Read John 20: 11-18**

Upon prayerful reading and pausing to think/notice, take a few moments to jot down your observations. Simple or complex; questions or ideas, anything that comes to mind – even answers to questions you’ve asked before. Maybe begin with the 5 w’s: who, what, when, where & why – always a good place to start.

In the passages: what do we learn about belonging? being seen, heard, known? Who, how and why? What do we learn about Jesus? about God, his faithfulness? About ourselves, our worth? In as much as God knows and calls Isaiah, he knows and calls us – by name. What can we learn from that? What else ....? Be sure to list attributes of God revealed in these (any) passages.

Imagine Jesus, meeting you as he met Mary at the tomb, tenderly speaking your name. How can that inform your identity and circumstances today? Where is our hope? our home? our eternal belonging?

Isaiah:

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Exodus:

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John: (consider what she say, what she reasoned, what is true, where God met her (Isaiah 51:3), what Jesus did, what he does for us ...)

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“...and saying to Zion, ‘You are my people.’”

Isaiah 51:16b

The great conversion called for by Jesus is to move from belonging to the world to belonging to God.

– Henri Nouwen

SAYS WHO: JEHOVAH-RAAH (ROHI), SHEPHERD

*“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.”*

*Ezekiel 34: 11-12*

*The Creator of the universe fashioned each of us distinctively and uniquely to be who we are, but His individual concern did not cease at the point of creation. As the Good Shepherd, He knows His sheep by*

*name. This singular thought is so profound that it defies our comprehension. The personal pronouns in the 23rd Psalm create a unique picture of a shepherd who lives with his flock, serves as their guide, caregiver, and protector. David could look back over his life and declare, "The Lord is my shepherd." - Ken Hemphill*

Jehovah Raah: Jehovah (I Am) is my (Raah) Shepherd. The name connotes relationship, attention, pastor, herdsman, companion, protector, connected, belonging and so much more. We are His. And in that comes complete care. For we “are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that (we) may declare the praises of him who called (us) out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once (we) were not a people, but now (we) are the people of God.... For ‘(we) were like sheep going astray,’<sup>(Isaiah 53)</sup> but now (we) have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of (our) souls.” (1 Peter 9-10, 25)

*In this name I think we find a tenderness and a security that implies a relationship, that comes from a relationship. When we see this name, we see Jehovah-jireh, which means “the LORD will provide;” we see El Elyon, the God most high;” we see Yahweh, which is the name “Jehovah,” the self-existent One. We have seen all these other names, and yet, with this name Jehovah- raah, it implies, like none of the other names imply, not demeaning them, but it implies a relationship, because here it is, “The LORD is my shepherd.”*

- Kay Arthur

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read Isaiah 49:1-18**

**Read John 10: 1-21**

As you go along in each of these passages, make note of what is revealed about God and about Jesus: character, power, authority, care, faithfulness, ... Also consider verb tenses as well as repeated words and phrases. Make note on each section your take-away and how that informs our belonging and our identity. Considering the contextual 5 W’s (who, what, when, where & why) is always a fun exercise if you have time.

Isaiah 49

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John 10:

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Behold, the Lord comes with might, and his arm rules for him;  
Behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.  
He will tend his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40: 10-11

**Read Psalm 23.** Make a list of what the Psalmist reveals about Jehovah-Raah, our shepherd. As you read, linger in this familiar passage, slow down and list his attributes, actions, promises, faithfulness – applying them to us today.

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What do they mean to you and how do they inform your identity today?

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*(W)hen David composed a poem to celebrate God, he (must have) thought to himself, "Just as I have been a shepherd to these sheep and have cared for them and watched out for them and protected them from danger, Jehovah has done all that for me! He is Jehovah-Rohi. The Lord is my Shepherd." It's wonderful to know the Twenty-Third Psalm, but how much better to know the Shepherd Himself! If He is your Shepherd, you will have everything you need, including goodness and mercy all—not some, but all—the days of your life.*

- Dr. David Jeremiah

Blessed be the LORD!  
For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.  
The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;  
my heart exults,  
and with my song I give thanks to him.  
  
The LORD is the strength of his people;  
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.  
Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!  
Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

Psalm 28:6-9

How does Jehovah-Raah impact our belonging in consideration of the fact that God declares us his?  
How can we apply his declaration today? Thoughts?

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Song: [Whole Heart \(Hold me Now\) – Acoustic](#) (Hillsong United)



WEEK FOUR:

SAFE says LORD OF HOSTS

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers,  
they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.”

**Isaiah 43: 2**

Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see.

- C S Lewis

The Hebrew word “yesha” translated “safety” means deliverance, rescue, a place of refuge, security, trust, confidence, hope. Proverbs 18:10 reveals God’s name Midgal-Oz, Strong Tower, into which the righteous run and find safety. Safety also involves trusting in the Lord, according to Proverbs 29:25. God keeps us safe in his dwelling, hides us in his shelter and sets us high upon a rock (Psalm 27:5). We can, as King David did, trust in God and his unfailing love for God will not, cannot, be shaken. (Psalm 21:7)

We can rest in awe and wonder (*fear of the Lord*) as the One who alone can give complete security and safety cares for and protects us – always. We can walk and not stumble; lie down and not be afraid, sleep sweetly; have no fear of sudden disaster or ruin; “for the Lord will be at (our) side and will keep (our) foot from being snared.” (Proverbs 3:23-26)

God declares and keeps us safe in and through all situations and circumstances. He is Jehovah-Shammah, always present, our strength ever present help in times of trouble. (Psalm 46). God is the LORD of Hosts (Jehovah-Sabaoth), Lord over everything seen and unseen.

*Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters  
Isaiah 43: 16*

*Is there a time or experience of suffering or hardship in your life where needed to feel safe? How did or how could God’s declaration of himself as our refuge, our strength and our Tower informed our identity?*

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“When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers,  
they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.”

*Isaiah 43: 2*

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read Isaiah 43: 16-21**

**Read Daniel 3: 8- 4:3**

**Read Daniel 6**

We’ve seen God’s safe rescue and protection in Exodus (literally paving a path through the sea safely between walls of water), what does Isaiah 43 reveal about God, our enemies, safety, provision, ...? And, let’s turn to another “exceedingly, abundantly more than you could ask or imagine” display of his protection in the book of Daniel.

Upon prayerful reading of these likely familiar stories, pausing and linger. think/notice, take a few moments to jot down your observations specifically related to safety. These are great passages to begin with the 5 w’s: who, what, when, where & why – as they are historical facts dealing with God’s people and his dominion and authority over all seen (the rulers of the day) and unseen (molecules formed together to make fire or wild animals).

In the passages: what do we learn about safety? about protection? about faithfulness: God’s and our holding onto/acting in trust according to faith? Who, how and why? What do we learn about God? about the Spirit and Jesus? What can we learn about ourselves, our worth and our place? What else ....? Be sure to list attributes of God revealed in these (any) passages.

Isaiah:

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Daniel 3:

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Daniel 6:

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The safest place in all the world is in the will of God,  
and the safest protection in all the world  
is the name of God.

– Warren Wiersbe

## SAYS WHO: LORD OF HOSTS (JEHOVAH SABAOTH)

*Isaiah gave no description of the Lord, saying only "I saw the Lord." Apparently, it was His awesome majesty which impressed itself on the prophet's consciousness – a marked contrast to the almost total disregard of the Lord on the part of the people to whom the prophet spoke.*

*Isaiah's vision and description of the angelic attendants called seraphim is slightly more detailed. They each had six wings. But it was what they were calling out to each other that grabbed his attention: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory" (Isa 6:3)*

*The temple was shaken and filled with smoke as a result of their proclamation. It was not the voice of God which made the temple rock and caused His majesty and glory to be veiled in smoke. It was the force and power of the attendants' testimony to His holiness!*

*The triple repetition "Holy, holy, holy!" conveyed the most intense expression of holiness. Perhaps to say "Holy, holier, holiest!" would achieve a similar result. At any rate, there was no doubt in Isaiah's mind about the subject of their worship and testimony: It was the holiness of the Lord Almighty – **Jehovah Sabaoth**. This name is descriptive of the One Isaiah saw. <sup>Xi</sup> - Jill Briscoe*

**Jehovah Sabaoth** – The Lord of "Hosts", LORD Almighty. This name denotes His universal sovereignty over every being, both spiritual and earthly. The Lord of Hosts is the king of all heaven and earth. (Psalm 24:9-10; Psalm 84:3; Isaiah 6:5).

This name for God first appears at the close of the period of the judges. In the same sentence as "LORD of hosts" is a reference to Shiloh, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. The Ark symbolized Yahweh's rulership, among other things, for He sits enthroned above the cherubim. He is ruler over all heavenly as well as earthly beings (1 Samuel 4:4; Psalm 99:1), everything seen and unseen. David claims that God is the universal ruler over every force whether in heaven or on earth.

The LORD of hosts is our Warrior and He will protect, deliver & rescue His covenant people "*for the gifts & the calling of God are irrevocable.*" (Exodus 15:3)

Power and authority over all things belong to God alone.

For behold, he who forms the mountains  
and creates the wind,  
and declares to man what is his thought,  
who makes the morning darkness,  
and treads on the heights of the earth—  
**the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!**

Amos 4:13

Begin with prayer, "Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word."

**Read Isaiah 44: 6-8**

**Read Isaiah 45: 1-13**

**Read Mark 4:35-40**

**Read Mark 5**

As you go along in each of these passages, considering the contextual 5 W's (who, what, when, where & why). Make note of what is revealed about God and about Jesus as Lord of Hosts. Lord over creation,



Lord over earthly powers (whether they attest to Him or not), Lord over circumstances & storms, Lord over illness, Lord over life & death - all things, seen or unseen. So many of God's names come into play. Jehovah Rapha (healer), Jehovah Shalom (peace), El Elyon (Most High), it goes on.

What can we learn about God's authority, his character, power, care, compassion, faithfulness, ... As always, consider verb tenses as well as repeated words and phrases. Make note on each section your take-away and how that informs our belonging and our identity.

Isaiah 44

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Isaiah 45

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Mark 4:

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Mark 5:

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**Read Psalm 91.** Make a list of what the Psalmist reveals about LORD of Hosts, Jehovah-Sabaoth, Lord of every dominion seen and unseen. As you read, list his amazing attributes, actions, authority, absolute rule, power – applying them to us today.

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Blessed be the LORD!  
For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.  
The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;  
my heart exults,  
and with my song I give thanks to him.

The LORD is the strength of his people;  
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.  
Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!  
Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

Psalm 28:6-9

How does the LORD of Hosts (Jehovah Sabaoth, LORD Almighty) impact our belonging in consideration of the fact that God declares us his? Thoughts?

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Song: [Way Maker](#) (Leeland)



## WEEK FIVE:

### PRECIOUS/TREASURED says JEHOVAH SHALOM

“Because you are precious in my eyes.”

**Isaiah 43: 2**

I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most glorious creature that I could think of; for to have been born in God's thought and then made by God is the dearest, grandest, and most precious thing in all thinking.

- C S Lewis

*“First of all, you have to keep unmasking the world about you for what it is: manipulative, controlling, power-hungry, and, in the long run, destructive. The world tells you many lies about who you are, and you simply have to be realistic enough to remind yourself of this. Every time you feel hurt, offended, or rejected, you have to dare to say to yourself: ‘These feelings, strong as they may be, are not telling me the truth about myself. The truth, even though I cannot feel it right now, is that I am the chosen child of God, precious in God's eyes, called the Beloved from all eternity, and held safe in an everlasting belief.’”*

— Henri J.M. Nouwen<sup>vii</sup>

Precious is an adjective meaning of high price or great value; very valuable or costly; highly esteemed for some spiritual, nonmaterial, or moral quality. Segullah, the Hebrew word translated as “treasured possession” refers to a royal treasure of gold and silver, but most of the time it is used in reference to God's people. So beautiful. God determines our identity (“redeemed”) and declares our worth (“precious,” “treasured”).

At the 2017 National Prayer Breakfast, U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black shared a story about his mother who would require him and his brother to memorize Bible verses, planting seeds so that they might know their worth. Upon memorizing and unavoidably thinking about the words in 1 Peter 1:18-19 (*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed ... but with the precious blood of Christ...*), he shares that:

*“as a ten-year-old boy, [I] had enough analytical power to know that the value of an object is based upon the price someone is willing to pay. When it dawned on me – a little guy from the inner-city – that God sent what John 3 calls in the Greek the “monogenes, the only one of its kind, the only begotten son, to die for me, no one was ever able to make me feel inferior again.”<sup>viii</sup>*

God gave everything because to God we are worth it. Dare we allow that to inform our worth? And to inform the undeniable worth of the people walking next to you – today and every day.

*Have you, or someone you love, deeply treasured something? How did you care for it? How much more does God do that (and more) for us?*

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“Because you are precious  
in my eyes.”

***Isaiah 43: 2***

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read Isaiah 62**

**Read Psalm 139**

**Read Colossian 3:1-17**

In these passages, slow down and linger and ask the Lord to reveal his view of and declaration upon us, that we might see, hear and believe the great value and worth bestowed upon the only part of creation He molded by hand and breathed into his breath of life. That we might live accordingly – alongside each other as well as in the care of ourselves, physically and mentally.

May we read and digest in the overwhelming abundance bestowed upon us by God Be overwhelmed by God’s provision and proclamations. What can we learn about God in these passages? his provision? his declaration? His authority (according to his Name(s)? Why does God do it? How are we affected? What does it say about our worth and identity? What names and attributes does he bestow upon his people?

What role does Jesus play? especially in our freedom from the things of this world and freedom to live in abundance filled love for God and others in active trust and obedience?

Isaiah:

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**Read Psalm 139** Make a list of what the Psalmist reveals about God? his amazing attributes, actions, authority, absolute rule, power, ... ? Then below, what do we learn about ourselves?

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Colossians 3:

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For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 7:6

## SAYS WHO: JEHOVAH SHALOM (PEACE)

When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, “Alas, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!”

But the LORD said to him, “Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.”

So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it. ***Yahweh Shalom.***

Judges 6: 22-24

*Isaiah 48:17 beautifully reveals the relationship between obedience, authority, and peace. God has a right to all authority because of who He is. Allow me to share my outlook on His right to complete authority. He is God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the supreme Author of all existence. He reigns over all, and in Him all things exist. He is the Lord, the Master and Owner of all living creatures. He is the covenant Maker and Keeper. He is holy. As Lord, He will never ask anything of us that is not right, good, and open to the light. He is perfect and undefiled. Lastly, He is Redeemer, the One who bought us from sin’s slave master so we could experience abundant life. He bought us to set us free. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31 NIV).*

*Take pleasure in knowing that God inspired His Word with great care and immaculate precision. He chose every word purposely. When He said we could have peace like a river, He wasn’t drawing a loose analogy. He meant it.*

- Beth Moore

In Ezekiel 34, God says, “I will make a covenant of peace with them...” which comes to fruition through the Good Shepherd, His one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For God is not only the peace-maker, His name is peace revealed by Gideon in Judges 6 – Jehovah-Shalom.

In Hebrew, *shalom* is translated as completeness, soundness, welfare, peace, perfect, full, harmony, wholeness and the joining together of opposites. In part, this is why shalom is used as a greeting and farewell – the epitome of opposites. Dare we take it to the deepest, most significant place where the shalom of Christ: light in darkness, life over death.

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord..”

2 Peter 1:2

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read Isaiah 25:6 – 26:8**

**Read Philippians 4: 4-13**

**Read Psalm 29**

Read in order to know God so that his grace and peace may be multiplied.

Consider the 5 w’s – *Who, What, When, Where and Why*. What? (some of which might be hard to nail down – but find what you can). What can we learn about God’s providence, salvation, sovereignty,

safety, ... in these passages? What names of God are called out? What do we learn about God in this passage? (write out specifics) What do we learn about His character as it relates to Jehovah-Shalom? While reading the passage, make a list of what the Lord reveals about Himself. List anything you learn about: who He is, the things He says/speaks, the things He does (explicit/implied).

Isaiah

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**Read Psalm 29.** Make a list of what the Psalmist reveals about Jehovah Shalom. As you read, list his amazing attributes, actions, authority, absolute rule, power – applying them to us today. How does Shalom inform our identity and worth that have been declared as precious and treasured?


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*“In the Bible, shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight--a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights. Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be.”*

*- Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.*

How does the Jehovah Shalom (Peace) impact our belonging in consideration of the fact that God declares us his? Thoughts?

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We are above all things loved--that is the good news of the gospel--and loved not just the way we turn up on Sundays in our best clothes and on our best behavior and with our best feet forward, but loved as we alone know ourselves to be, the weakest and shabbiest of what we are along with the strongest and gladdest.

To come together as people who believe that just maybe this gospel is actually true should be to come together like people who have just discovered that every single man and woman in those pews is not just another familiar or unfamiliar face but is our lon-lost brother and our long-lost sister because despite the fact that we have knelt at different graves, we have all, humanly speaking, come from the same place and are heading out into the same blessed mystery that awaits us all.

This is the joy that is so apt to be missing, and missing not just from church but from our own lives--the joy of not just managing to believe at least part of the time that it is true that life is holy, but of actually running into that holiness head-on.

- *Frederick Buechner*

Song: [Remember](#) (Stephanie Gretzinger, Forever Amen)



## WEEK SIX:

### HONORED says EL ROI

**“Because you are precious  
in my eyes, and honored.”  
Isaiah 43: 4**

The great thing to remember is that  
though our feelings come and go  
God’s love for us does not.

- C S Lewis

*... Notice how that preciousness is enhanced beyond the superlative degree by the words, “precious in my sight” The degree of preciousness depends much upon the person who forms the judgment; and what estimate can be so accurate as that of God the infallible? What judgment can be so severely exacting as that of God the infinitely holy? How precious must a believer be if he be precious in God’s sight?*

*... (T)hese are they in whom Jesus Christ’s Spirit dwells, who are brethren to the Firstborn.*

*Honorable, then, in birth, and honorable in rank, and right honorable in their service, are the saints. For what blessed employment is that which God hath sent us on? He hath sent us into the world to bear witness of the truth, he hath bidden us proclaim the name of Jesus to the utmost bounds of the earth, he hath sent us to seek after the lost sheep of the house of Israel. I know of no service that can be more distinguished than the doing of good, the scattering of blessings among the sons of men.*

*– Charles Spurgeon<sup>ix</sup>*

Honored means: *regarded with great respect; something that someone has bestowed upon one.* It is distinguished, esteemed, recognized, celebrated, venerated, cherished. God honors Christ as He alone is seated at his right hand. God honors man as the only part of creation fashioned by his own hand, the only part of creation into which he breathed his own breath (Genesis 3). God honors man by setting him apart as his own (Jeremiah 30:22), by offering salvation (Romans 6:23), extending adoption (Galatians 4), inviting man into his work (1 Corinthians 12), giving victory over death (1 Cor. 15:54-57), an eternal home in heaven (1 Pet. 1:3-5).

How humbling to be honored by God.

*Who is someone that is honored these days and why? How is he/she treated? How does the fact that God declares us honored inform your identity or worth today?*

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“Because you are precious  
in my eyes, and honored.”

*Isaiah 43: 4*

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

**Read Isaiah 55**

**Read 1 Peter 1:1-9**

As you read, consider God’s setting apart, his care, his promise/covenant, his purpose and love. Take note of specifics that reveal the place of honor that he bestows upon his people, and through whom. What can we learn about God, about Jesus, about the Holy Spirit and about us. How is our worth and identity informed? How do these relate to the other things we have been learning about God and our worth?

May we read and breathe in the overwhelming abundance bestowed upon us by God. And again be overwhelmed by God’s provision and proclamations.

What else? ...

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? *Who shall bring any charge against God’s chosen ones?* It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Romans 8:31–34

Genesis: (always nice in historical passages to take also consider context with the 5w’s)

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You only are a people holy to GOD, your God;  
 GOD chose you out of all the people on Earth  
 as his cherished personal treasure.

Deuteronomy 14:2 (MSG)

## SAYS WHO: EL ROI (God who Sees Me)

*She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her:  
"You are the God who sees me," for she said,  
"I have now seen the One who sees me."*

*Genesis 22:14*

God sees everything at once and knows what you are called to do. Our part is not to play  
God, but to trust God - to believe that our single, solitary life can make a difference

- Zig Ziglar

**El Roi** – The God who Sees Me – first crossed the lips of someone who felt everything but seen. To be seen and known and loved lie at the core of human desire. We each have the deepest longing for these woven within our souls. The needs play off each other and trick us into believing that we are none of those things – seen, known or loved. Which is where Hagar found herself, mistreated and rejected – alone. So she ran, fully convinced that not only would no one care or miss her, but that no one would even notice. And if they did, a celebration would be at hand.

But she could not run from God. None of us can. For God sees and knows all.

### **El Roi**

"a God of seeing" (Ge 16:13ESV),  
"the God Who sees me" (Ge 16:13NIV);  
"You Are the God Who Watches Over Me" (Ge 16:13GWT)  
"You are the God of Vision" (NAB)

Begin with prayer, "Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word."

**Read Genesis 16**

**Mark 6:45 - 52**

**Read Psalm 121**

Begin with the 5 w's – *Who, What, When, Where and Why*. As with many stories, especially those referring to ancient culture, complicated seems to be an understatement. We catch the story of Abraham after God has declared his intentions to bless Sarai with a son through whom the nations would be blessed (Gen. 15) and after years had passed. Abraham and Sarah, far from child-bearing years, try to figure things to the best of their understanding. Enter Hagar – the perfect surrogate, until she gets pregnant. In what ways do we see human nature play out in Sarai? in Abraham? in Hagar? – How do their reactions reflect their core pain or issues? What do we learn about God's timing, his promise, his provision? Did Hagar feel seen? Did Sarai? Does feeling seen (or known or loved) have any bearing on the reality that they/we are? How is that addressed in the text?

What do we learn about Jesus' sight and care? How is it consistent? How/where can God's & Jesus' sight be applied to us today?

In what ways is it significant that God revealed his name **El Roi** to Hagar who in turn was the first and only person to claim it and to say it aloud?

Genesis 16

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**Read Psalm 121.** Make a list of what the Psalmist reveals about God. As you read, list his amazing attributes, actions, authority, absolute rule, power – applying them to us today. How does El Roi inform our identity and worth that have been declared as precious and treasured?

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*The more one thinks of it, the more shall he be overwhelmed with astonishment, that he who is everything should love us.*

*– Charles Spurgeon*

How does the El Roi (God who Sees Me) impact our belonging in consideration of the fact that God declares us his? Thoughts?

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Song: [Goodness of God](#) Worship Initiative





## WEEK SEVEN:

### LOVED says JEHOVAH JIREH

“...and because I love you.”

**Isaiah 43: 4**

God can't give us peace and happiness apart from  
Himself because there is no such thing.

- C.S. Lewis

*When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, he heard a voice from heaven saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). These words revealed the true identity of Jesus as the beloved. Jesus truly heard that voice, and all of his thoughts, words, and actions came forth from his deep knowledge that he was infinitely loved by God. Jesus lived his life from that inner place of love. Although human rejections, jealousies, resentments, and hatred did hurt him deeply, he remained anchored in the love of the Father. At the end of his life, he said to his disciples, “Listen: the time will come— indeed has come already—when you are going to be scattered, each going his own way and leaving me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me” (John 16:32).*

*I know now that the words spoken to Jesus when he was baptized are words spoken also to me and to all who are brothers and sisters of Jesus. My tendencies toward self-rejection and self-deprecation make it hard to hear these words truly and let them descend into the center of my heart. But once I have received these words fully, I am set free from my compulsion to prove myself to the world and can live in it without belonging to it. Once I have accepted the truth that I am God’s beloved child, unconditionally loved, I can be sent into the world to speak and to act as Jesus did.*

– Henri Nouwen

“For God so loved the world...” – it’s hard to grasp that kind of love. Not just the action of love, but the fact that God is love, knows love, abides in love, shares love, fully operates in all capacity of love. God’s love is almost inconceivable. And that he bestows it upon us! A love that has no end. A love that God makes known to us in action, willfully “who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb 12:2b ESV)

May God open our eyes, ears and minds and give us his “strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God...” just as Paul prayed in Ephesians 3.

How amazing to be wholly-loved by God.

*What role does love play in your life? How does the fact that God declares us “beloved” inform your identity or worth today?*

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“...and because I love you.”

**Isaiah 43: 4**

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read Isaiah 54**

**Read John 11:1-37**

**Read Ephesians 3:14-21**

As you read, consider God’s names, his Presence, foreknowledge, complete authority, absolute provision, safety, purpose and love. What causes you pause? How can God’s “steadfast” “unending” love inform our doubts, fears, and hope? What can we learn about God (specifically – noting verses), ourselves and those around us in light of his love? What can we learn about abundance and life and freedom for which we have been set free?

There are so many places we can turn to witness God’s love in Scripture, basically because the Bible itself is a love story. “Many people think of the Bible as a book of moral teachings with stories sprinkled through to illustrate the teachings. But it’s a lot better than that... the Bible is a single true story with teachings sprinkled through to illustrate the story.” (Tim Keller) God’s love for us.

What else? ...

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one  
who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you  
with loud singing

Zephaniah 3:17

Isaiah 54:

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John 11: 1-37 : (a good spot to consider the 5 w's)

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Ephesians 3: 14-21:

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But the man who is not afraid to admit everything that he sees to be wrong with himself, and yet recognizes that he may be the object of God's love precisely because of his shortcomings, can begin to be sincere. His sincerity is based on confidence, not in his own illusions about himself, but in the endless, unfailing mercy of God.

– *Thomas Merton*

#### SAYS WHO: JEHOVAH JIREH (Provider)

So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide.  
And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD  
it will be provided.”

Genesis 22:14

*Abraham’s reasoning was based upon his experience with God over the years. God had continually proven to be his provider and protector. ...Abraham did not understand why he was told to sacrifice his son nor how God would accomplish His promises if Abraham obeyed, but he did know Who had commanded it. He did know that God was holy, just, and pure. He did know that God was able to raise the dead. On the basis of these certainties Abraham obeyed God, contrary to human wisdom, but squarely based upon godly reason. Godly reason has reasons. We may not know how or why, but we do know Who and what. That is enough!*

- *Bob Deffinbaugh*

The first time we see God’s name – Jehova Jireh, The LORD will Provide, is in Genesis 22 at the foot of Mt Moriah when Abraham unequivocally tells those with him, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.” How that could be the case was a mystery since their destination involved obeying a command that would leave the boy unable to return. Abraham didn’t know how, but he knew Who commanded and Who had promised a nation more vast than the stars in the sky and the sands on the earth. So, Abraham reasoned that together they would return.

Abraham was the first person to say out loud God’s name: Jehovah (Self-Existent One) Jireh (Provider)  
The meaning of Jehova Jereh is literally The Lord Who Will See To It.

“This is what we long for when we have a need that is personal and special; One who will see to our needs and provide for us. This is what Jehovah-Jireh means; the Lord Who will see to it that my every need is met.”<sup>v</sup>

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read Genesis 22: 1-19**

**Exodus 16**

**Read Psalm 136**

Though these stories are familiar and maybe hard to read, try to read with fresh eyes, open to learning about God, asking Him to help us understand. Especially in context of what we’ve been learning about God’s call and covenant.

Begin with the 5 w’s – *Who, What, When, Where and Why*. How does Abraham respond when God calls his name (both times)? Why would the command and his response have been especially hard for Abraham (see: Genesis 15:1-6, Romans 4:18-22). What did Abraham know about God in order to respond the way that he did? (Hebrews 11:17-19) What do we learn about God through Abraham? through Isaac? Then in Exodus, where do we find Moses and the nation of Israel? What burning need is facing them? Where and how did God meet them in this need? What can we learn about God’s provision? his hearing and knowing? Ourselves? How can all of this be applied to the story behind the story – the one of ultimate salvation and freedom from slavery, spiritual and eternal.

What’s going on in your life where the Lord’s name Provider can inform circumstances, stress, expectations or pressures?

Genesis 22:1-19

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For Abraham it was a test, but how does this story point forward to the story of Jesus and the offering of Calvary? See Genesis 22:2, 5, 6-9. The Lord went through with what appeared to be a morally wrong command given to Abraham – which we know that God cannot be immoral

for He is Holy. God cannot be counter to who He is, his character. What can these things teach us about Him, his love for us?

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Exodus 16

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**Read Psalm 136.** Make a list of what the Psalmist reveals about God, his power, his provision, faithfulness? What is it that we might need to hear? How do God's attributes reveal his love? What can help lean into and believe his love?

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Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and **beloved**,  
compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and  
patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a  
complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the  
Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And  
above all these put on love, which binds everything  
together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ  
rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one  
body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:12-15

How does Jehovah Jireh (Provider) impact God's declaring us "Beloved"? Maybe take a few extra moments this week to read your favorite story of God's provision or Christ's love from the Gospels. Thoughts?

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Song: [Love All Along](#) (HTB-Worship)



WEEK EIGHT:

you are NEVER ALONE says IMMANUEL

“Fear not, for I am with you;”

**Isaiah 43: 5**

If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.

- C S Lewis

*God wants to bring peace into the storms in our lives. He doesn't want us living in fear or losing our hope. When the storm rages around us, we can find comfort knowing that we are not alone. The God of Peace is in the boat with us. We are not alone. We are not facing the storm alone. He is with us and he is for us, if we will call on him.*

– Max Lucado

in an era offering arguably the greatest ability to connect with people, isolation is on the rise. Something as precious as relationship has been plasticized into something it has never been – surface-deep, loose connections given credibility by over-inflated numbers resulting in its alternative: loneliness.

In 2018, the United Kingdom met the issue head on, appointing a minister for loneliness, stating that “(f)or far too many people, loneliness is the sad reality of modern life.”<sup>x</sup> Every segment in society is touched by it, whether in a crowded high school cafeteria or the workplace, loneliness has reached epidemic rates.

But we are not alone.

According to God. In Matthew 28:20 Jesus tells us, “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” In Hebrews 13:5 quotes the book of Joshua in God’s declaration of, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” In the book of Joshua (1:9), the LORD encourages him to be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” It’s a promise to us as well.

Lord, help us in our unbelief.

*When do you feel/What leads to feeling alone? How does the fact that God sticks with us, even walks with us inform your identity or worth today?*

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“...fear not, for I am with you”  
**Isaiah 43: 4**

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read Isaiah 46: 3-11**

**Deuteronomy 31: 1-8**

**Read 2 Chronicles 20: 1 – 34**

Begin with the 5 w’s to get context. What do we learn about God in these passages? His knowledge, protection, provision, commitment, covenant and proximity – always. When feeling afraid or alone, what can we learn from Moses? From Jehoshaphat? What do they reveal about themselves and claim about God. How can you relate?

Consider making a list of God’s characteristics in these passages.

How do God’s declarations and characteristics inform or worth, our identity, our safety, provision, protection? How do these declarations speak into your own circumstances and situation?

Isaiah 46:

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Deuteronomy 31: 1-8

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2 Chronicles : (a good spot to consider the 5 w's)

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A quick biblegateway search reveals that “*I am with you*” is spoken by God to his people 12 times. Consider who is speaking (the names of God in each) and linger in the wonder of his declarations.

Genesis 26:24 “And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for **I am with you** and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake.”

- Genesis 28:15 “Behold, **I am with you** and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”
- Isaiah 41:10 “...fear not, for **I am with you**; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
- Isaiah 43:5 “Fear not, for **I am with you**; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.”
- Jeremiah 1:8 “Do not be afraid of them, for **I am with you** to deliver you,” declares the Lord.
- Jeremiah 1:19 “They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for **I am with you**, declares the Lord, to deliver you.”
- Jeremiah 15:20 “And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for **I am with you** to save you and deliver you,” declares the Lord.
- Jeremiah 30:11 “For **I am with you** to save you, declares the Lord; I will make a full end of all the nations among whom I scattered you, but of you I will not make a full end.”
- Jeremiah 42:11 “Do not fear the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid. Do not fear him, declares the Lord, for **I am with you**, to save you and to deliver you from his hand.”
- Jeremiah 46:28 “Fear not, O Jacob my servant, declares the Lord, for **I am with you**. I will make a full end of all the nations to which I have driven you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished.”
- Haggai 1:13 Then Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke to the people with the Lord's message, “**I am with you**, declares the Lord.”
- Haggai 2:4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the Lord. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for **I am with you**, declares the Lord of hosts,

#### SAYS WHO: Immanuel (God with us)

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Isaiah 7:14

*Immanuel “is eternity’s sonnet, heaven’s hallelujah, the shout of the glorified, the song of the redeemed, the chorus of angels, the everlasting oratorio of the great orchestra of the sky.”*

- Charles Spurgeon

The first time (of which there are only three) we see the name Immanuel is in Isaiah 7:14: “*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*” The Name **IMMANUEL** emphasizes the nearness of God. Christ's birth brought the infinite, holy God within reach of finite, sinful man. God came to live with us so we could live with Him. But in addition to walking with us and beside us, they take it a giant leap further to live inside us. The most intimate, otherworldly form of *with*. “Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I

am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.” (John 14: 19b-20) He is our Immanuel (God With Us) all day, every day, at every stage of our physical and spiritual life, for He has promised to never desert us or forsake us. He cannot, for it would be counter to his character. The secret of peace is not a plan or program but a Person, Immanuel.

Dr. Tony Evans explains it this way. “Jesus is God with us in every way. If you want to get to know the names of Jesus, just get to know the names of God, because Jesus is the fulfillment of every name of God. And He has come as Immanuel, “God with us,” in order to reveal God to us. Should you ever become confused about who God is and what He is like, all you have to do is remember Immanuel. ... He is “God with us.” He is God with you.”<sup>xi</sup>

“What a tremendous assurance. “I am with you always!” In Mt 1:23, He was called “Immanuel,” God with us, and in Mt 28:20 He reaffirms that Name. He is with us through His Spirit, in His Word, by His providential care, and with His divine presence.”

Warren Wiersbe

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read Isaiah 11: 1-10**

**Read Matthew 1:18-24**

**Read John 14**

**Read Psalm 46**

Begin with the 5 w’s – *Who, What, When, Where and Why*. In each reading, jot down attributes you learn about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. What can we learn about God’s faithfulness, his covenant, his peace (Shalom), his authority, knowledge and power over all things. What is revealed about God’s nearness? How does God meet us in our confusion and doubt?

How does Jesus take Immanuel even further? What does he reveal about God’s plan and provision? What is God teaching you about his presence and power in and through our life?

Many of these are familiar passages – what has come to light that you might not have noticed before? How does Immanuel speak into your life and circumstances today? How does Immanuel offer comfort? Inform your worth and identity.

What else?...

Isaiah 11:1-10

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**Read Psalm 46.** Make a list of what the Psalmist reveals about God, his power, his provision, his presence faithfulness? What is it that we might need to hear? How can we grow in knowledge and faith in God's nearness?


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For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- Jesus  
(Matthew 28:20b)

How does Immanuel enlighten God's promise and declaration that we are never alone? How does that inform your identity and worth?

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Song: [All Hail King Jesus](#) (Jeremy Riddle)



## WEEK NINE:

you are my DAUGHTER says ABBA (Father)

“Bring my sons from afar  
and **my daughters** from the ends of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

**Isaiah 43: 6b-7**

“The Son of God became a man to  
enable men to become sons of God.”

- C S Lewis

This week, our format will be a little different. Since our identity as Daughter is not only connected to but driven by ABBA (Father), we will look at them together rather than separately.

“...the very word “Abba” or “Father” was a profound shift in the reference to God. We take God as Father for granted today since God is referred to as Father some 165 plus times in the Gospels alone! Yet, we forgot that in the Old Testament God is only referred to as “*Father*” fifteen times, with the imagery implied in just a small hand full of others. He is more often likened to a father not given the title of Father. However, Jesus [in the Lord’s prayer] is showing us that kingdom-of-heaven life, following-Jesus life, is one in which our relation to God is one of intimacy and awe; nearness and reverence. In the word “Abba”, Jesus makes it clear that God cannot be “conceived as an idea or a force or a higher power...’ Father’ as a metaphor names a person, not an object. Father and son and daughter are not functions. They are unique blood relationships.” - Jeremy Pace

**Abba**– Father. This name denotes personal relationship at the most intimate level made all the more sweet by the fact that not only are we God’s as His creation, but also as His children, adopted into His family.

Adoption isn’t an accident. It is premeditated and proactive. It is a forethought with a plan. It costs. Adoption is the essence of being sought, of being wanted, of belonging, of chosen. It brings with it a new name.

“They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD;  
and **you will be called Sought After...**” Isaiah 62:12

God is the Father of Jesus and the Father of those who follow Jesus.

*What feelings associated with “daughter” come to mind as it relates to you? Some good? Some conflicted?  
How does the fact that **God** declares us his child/his daughter inform your identity or worth today?*

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“Bring my sons from afar  
and **my daughters** from the ends of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.”

**Isaiah 43: 6b-7**

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children”. When we cry out to God as “Abba,” the Spirit of God somehow comes alongside us (“with our spirit”) and gives us assurance that we truly are in God’s family.

...We have the status not of “*u slave*” but of “*sonship*”. In a house, slaves have no authority. They can only do what they are told. But under their parents, children do have authority in the house—they are not mere servants. The children of God are given authority over sin and the devil. They are to move about in the world knowing that it belongs to their Father. There should be a confidence and poise about them. Children have the honor of the family name. There is a wonderful new status conferred on us.

- *Tim Keller*

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read Isaiah 63:7-16.**

As has been the case, begin with a quick assessment of context – whatever you can glean from the 5 Ws: who, what, when, where & why. What do we learn about our relationship with God and our Father, our Redeemer? Who are we called? What is our relationship? our worth?

While reading the passage, make a list of what the Lord reveals about Himself. List anything you learn about: who He is, the things He says/speaks, the things He does (explicit/implied).

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**Read Romans 8:14-39**

Take note about specific promises in these likely familiar verses. Does anything strike you in a new and fresh way?

Who is the promise-keeper. What have we learned about God’s faithfulness over these last few weeks? How do His Names inform us? What does his name Abba bring to the table. How do you see it play out in this passage? What do we learn about ourselves? What promises are hard for you to believe? Is God believable? How does God define your worth?

... What else?

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The benefits of being adopted children of God are many. Becoming a child of God is the highest privilege and honor that can be imagined. Because of it we have a new relationship with God and a new standing before Him. He deals with His children differently than He deals with the rest of the world. Being a child of God, adopted “through faith in Christ Jesus” is the source for our hope, the security of our future and the motivation to “walk worthy of the calling with which you were called” (Ephesians 4:1). Being children of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords calls us to a higher standard, a different way of life and a greater hope.

- J.I Packer

**Read Deuteronomy 32:1-6.**

What do we learn about God in this passage? (write out specifics.) What do we learn about His character as it relates to us and Abba Father?

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**Mark 5:25 -34**

**Read Isaiah 62:11-12**

**Galatians 3:23 - 4:7**

What do we learn about God in these passage with regard to Abba and other names we have studied (write out specifics.) What do we learn about God’s character as it relates to us (our worth and our identity) and Abba Father, Redeemer, Savior?

On this re-read of Mark 5 (we looked at this passage when considering God’s name Jehovah-Sabaoth) how does his role as Lord of Hosts come alongside Abba-Father, as it is the only time Jesus declared “daughter”. What can we learn about our Father’s deep and intimate knowledge, tenderness, compassion,... upon us?

How does that speak to your circumstances today?

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“Yet to all who received him [Christ], to those who believed in his name,  
he gave the right to become children of God”

John 1:12

**Read Psalm 31.** Make a list of what the Psalmist reveals about God. As you read, list his amazing attributes, actions, authority, absolute rule, power – applying them to us today.

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See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. . . . Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:1a-2

That God is our Abba-Father is a truth we must cultivate  
for the sake of our soul's health.

- *R Kent Hughes*

How does Abba (Father) impact our identity and worth in consideration of the fact that God declares us his children? Thoughts?

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Song: [No Longer Slaves](#) Worship Initiative (Shane & Shane)



WEEK TEN:  
CHOSEN says ADONAI

“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD,  
“and my servant **whom I have chosen**,  
that you may know and believe me  
and understand that I am he.  
Before me no god was formed,  
nor shall there be any after me.”

**Isaiah 43: 10**

What you see and what you hear  
depends a great deal on where you are  
standing. It also depends on what sort of  
person you are.

- C S Lewis

*Behind our believing — behind our coming to Jesus — is grace alone. There is no ground for our being chosen beneath the all-wise and incomprehensible love of God. Oh, the vastness of the repercussions of this unfathomable truth!*

- John Piper

According to Merriam-Webster, chosen is a noun meaning: : *one who is the object of choice or of divine favor : an elect person; selected or marked for favor.*

Got Questions offer this in response to the question – why would God choose me? *Just as God chose Israel out of love and not because of something impressive about the nation, God chooses us out of love. As 1 John 3:1 says, “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!” Why did God choose us? Because of His great love, His lavish love. ...Why did God choose us? He chose you to demonstrate His character. He chose you that you may know Him and love Him. He chose you because He is love (1 John 4:8), He is gracious, He is merciful, and He has a glorious plan for you.*

The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 7:1

“For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you...”

1 Thessalonians 1:4

How humbling to be chosen by God.

*When is a time you remember being chosen? How about overlooked? And how did it feel? How does the fact that God declares has chosen you inform your identity or worth today?*

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“...my servant **whom I have chosen**,”  
*Isaiah 43: 10*

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read 1 Samuel 16: 1-13**

**Ephesians 1: 1-14**

**Read John 15:1-16**

**Isaiah 43: 10-21**

Consider jotting down the 5 w’s for each passage. At least take a quick scan of the lay of land to get your Scripture bearings. What do these passages teach us about ourselves, God’s people, what it means to be chosen. Make a list of what we can learn about God, about Jesus – making lists or attributes and actions active verbs. How does God choose his people? Compare and contrast God (his economy) to that of the world. How does Jesus’ analogy in John 15 inform your identity and worth?

What else? ...

1 Samuel 16:

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Ephesians 1:

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John 15:

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Isaiah 43

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“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

1 Peter 2:9

**SAYS WHO: ADONAI (Lord, Master)**

“Who am I, *Adonay Yahweh*,” he asked, “and why is my house so important that you have brought me this far? And even this you consider to be a small act, *Adonay Yahweh*. You’ve also spoken about the distant future of my house. *Adonay Yahweh*, this is the teaching about the man.” (NOG)

Adonai – Lord, Master – stresses man’s relationship to God as his master, authority, and provider . *In the Septuagint, Adonai and Jehovah are translated with the same Greek noun kurios which signifies sovereign power, supreme authority, absolute ownership. In the NT, Jesus is referred to less than 20 times as Savior (sotor) and over 700 times as Lord (kurios)! When the two titles are mentioned together, Lord always precedes Savior.* <sup>xii</sup>

God, Adonai, is Lord and master over Israel and Egypt (Deuteronomy 9:25), over nations and all rulers of the earth (Daniel 1:2), over the earth & man & all creatures (Psalm 37), over the wicked & righteous (Psalm 97) over the mountains (Psalm 114), over the earth (Joshua 3, Psalm 24), over all gods (Malachi 1:6). Adonai is the owner of all that exists.

*Yahweh focuses on God’s self-existence and the fact that only God has life in himself. Often in our Bibles this word is written “Lord,” or occasionally “God,” with all capital letters. When we encounter the word Lord, typeset in upper- and lower-case letters, the Hebrew term behind it is Adon, which means “Master.” The addition of the suffix ai intensifies the meaning of the word, so that Adonai means the supreme Lord, the Lord of all. This word stresses the sovereignty of God as All-ruler... When the Christian stands before Almighty God he or she stands before absolute authority over life. Adonai authority empowers faith, hope and service...* <sup>xiii</sup>

R.C. Sproul

Begin with prayer, “Lord, open my eyes that I might see what you have to show me in your Word.”

**Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29**





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“I said to *Yahweh*, “You are my *Adonai*.  
Without you, I have nothing good.”  
Psalm 16:2 (NOG)

**Read Psalm 97.** Make a list of what the Psalmist reveals about God. As you read, list his amazing attributes, actions, authority, absolute rule, power – applying them to us today. How does Adonai inform our identity and worth that have been declared as precious and treasured?

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*Since God is the absolute ruler and owner,  
our response to this name comes through the  
surrender of submission. Submission is a*

*powerful tool when coupled with an All-  
powerful Adonai God.*

*– Tony Evans*

How does the Adonai (Lord, Master) impact our belonging in consideration of the fact that God declares us his? Thoughts?

Notes:

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Song: [Promises](#) Maverick City Music



**WHO** you are, says **WHO**

**W R A P**

“I am Yahweh your Elohim, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...” who declares, “you are precious to me, you are honored and I love you.”

**Isaiah 43: 3a, 4a**

*I love to go to the book of Ephesians and look at all the places in the first chapter where it says “in Christ” or “in Him.” Depending on your Bible translation, those phrases appear about 11 times and describe a host of incredible things about ourselves that if we truly believed, it would change everything.*

*It says that those in Christ are blessed “with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (verse 3), chosen (verse 4), predestined and adopted (verse 5), redeemed and forgiven (verse 7), grace has been lavished on them (verse 7), that they are “in the know” on God’s will (verse 9), have been given an inheritance (verse 11), and are sealed by the Holy Spirit (verse 13). Those are some weighty statements. Entire books have been written about the meaning and depth of each of those words. You could spend the rest of your life dwelling on just one of them and still not come to fully grasp it.*

*If you come to base your identity in these statements, it roots and hides your identity in something that can’t be changed and can’t go away.*

*- Rick Warren*

To wrap up our study, **Read Isaiah 55**. Read and linger in then list God’s declarations of himself and allow his sovereignty and authority inform your identity and worth as determined by Him.

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Next **Read Isaiah 43** once more. In the columns below, list on the left God’s declarations (directly stated or implied) regarding our worth and identity on the left and God’s names and attributes on the right. Then make note of which declarations are a challenge for you to believe/receive followed by specific reasons (according to God’s Names we have studied) we can.

Identity declarations – *WHO you are*

God’s Names/Attributes – *says WHO*

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Then conclude by flipping back through the last ten weeks, jot down any verses you'd like to remember, declarations of your identity/worth, things you've learned about God, which Name has proved most impactful, ways you've grown in trust, ... what sticks out.

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A few declarations (feel free to add more) ...

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. (John 15:16)

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. (Romans 6:6)

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. (Jeremiah 1:5)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15)

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)

How does all this inform our worth in consideration of the fact that God declares us his? Thoughts?

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Song: **Highs & Lows** (Hillsong Young & Free)

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<sup>i</sup> <http://sermons2.redeemer.com/sermons/made-stewardship>

<sup>ii</sup> Frederick Buechner, "The Great Dance" in *Secrets in the Dark: A Life in Sermons*, 240.

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/redemption.html>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://voice.dts.edu/article/the-freedom-of-grace-swindoll-charles-r/>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.jesusfilm.org/blog-and-stories/jesus-name-mean.html>

<sup>vi</sup> N.T. Wright N.T. Wright's "[Justification: God's Plan and Paul's Vision](#)", on page 164.

<sup>vii</sup> Nouwen, Henri. [Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World](#)

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyvNg1kk9tQ>

<sup>ix</sup> <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/precious-honorable-beloved#flipbook/>

<sup>x</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/17/world/europe/uk-britain-loneliness.html>

<sup>xi</sup> <https://tonyevans.org/jesus-god-with-us/>

<sup>xii</sup> [https://www.preceptaustin.org/adonai-lord-the\\_name\\_of\\_god](https://www.preceptaustin.org/adonai-lord-the_name_of_god)

<sup>xiii</sup> <https://www.amazon.com/Before-Face-God-Ephesians-Hebrews/dp/0801011027>