

WHAT'S IN A NAME: AN INTIMATE INTRODUCTION!

Scripture used: [Genesis 22:1-14 \(NLT\)](#); [Exodus 3:1-15 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Andrea reminded us that names are never just labels—they carry meaning, history, and intimacy. Our given names often come from people who know and love us, and our nicknames reflect personal connection. This is even more true with God. In Scripture, God reveals Himself through many names—Jehovah, Yahweh, Adonai, Elohim, El Shaddai—each revealing something about His nature and His relationship with us. In Exodus 3, God told Moses to call Him “Yahweh,” the self-existing One who was, is, and will be. In Genesis 22, Abraham called the place of God’s provision “Yahweh Yireh” (Jehovah Jireh), meaning “The Lord will provide,” a prophetic promise not just of what God has done, but what He will do. Pastor Andrea shared her own story of God’s provision as a single mother—times when rent was miraculously paid, mission trips were somehow funded, and her faith was sustained during a season of unemployment. She reminded us that God’s provision is not limited to finances; He provides relationship, salvation, the Holy Spirit, and everything we need for our unique journey.

KEY POINTS

1. **God’s names reveal His character.** In Scripture, names are never random—they are purposeful revelations of identity. When God calls Himself Yahweh, He is declaring that He is the self-existent One, uncreated, unchanging, and eternal. When He reveals Himself as Jehovah Jireh, He is showing that He is the One who sees ahead and provides exactly what is needed. Names like Adonai (“Lord”), Elohim (“Creator”), and El Shaddai (“God Almighty”) open windows into His strength, authority, and care. The more we learn these names, the more we understand His heart and His ways.
2. **Jehovah Jireh is a promise, not just a memory.** Abraham’s declaration on Mount Moriah that “The Lord will provide” ([Genesis 22:14 \(NLT\)](#)) was not simply a thank-you for the ram caught in the thicket—it was a prophetic statement about God’s ongoing faithfulness. In Hebrew, the phrase is in the future tense, pointing to a God who continues to act on behalf of His people. This means we don’t just look backward at what God has done; we also look forward with expectation to what He will do next. Every time we call Him Jehovah Jireh, we are aligning our hearts with His eternal commitment to meet our needs.
3. **God provides in every situation.** We often think of provision in terms of finances or material needs, but Scripture shows that God offers us much more. He provides spiritual covering, emotional strength, healing, purpose, and wisdom. He gives salvation through Jesus Christ and guidance through the Holy Spirit. For Abraham, provision came in the form of a ram. For Pastor Andrea, it came in paid rent, funded mission trips, and strength to endure unemployment. For us, it might come as a restored relationship, an answered prayer, or peace in the middle of chaos. No matter the need—physical, spiritual, or emotional—God has the resources and the will to provide.
4. **Personal testimony strengthens faith.** The Bible is filled with stories of God’s provision, but He is still writing testimonies today. When we share what God has done for us, we create a living record of His faithfulness that encourages others. Pastor Andrea’s story of raising two sons as a single mother is not just her personal history—it’s a public witness of God’s ability to sustain, provide, and guide. Testimonies make God’s Word tangible; they turn abstract promises into concrete reality. Hearing and telling these stories remind us that if God did it before, He can and will do it again. They help us—and others—stand firm when the next test comes.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Which name of God speaks most to your current season? Is it Jehovah Jireh, your Provider? Yahweh Shalom, your Peace? El Shaddai, your Almighty God? How might learning and praying these names deepen your trust in Him?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Why do you think Scripture emphasizes that God’s names are revealed in specific moments rather than all at once? What does that say about our journey of knowing Him?
- 3) **DO** - This week, choose one name of God that reflects an area where you need His provision or presence. Write it down, pray it daily, and look for ways God is revealing that part of Himself in your life.