

# GOD WITH US

*His People. His Dwelling Place.*

## Our Shepherd in Every Season - Ps Marno Jansen

King David, after all his experiences with the Lord, reflects on God's shepherd heart. His faithful nature means He is there in **all seasons of life**, guiding and comforting us. More than a God who instructs from afar, He is a shepherd who walks among his sheep, loving and knowing them individually. According to David, the good shepherd is **all we need**, in every season of our lives.

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.* Psalm 23:1 (NLT)

We all go through different seasons in life. Some are 'valley' seasons: extremely difficult times in our life. Psalm 23 teaches us three things about valley seasons:

- He takes us **through the valley** (v4). Taking us through the valley develops intimacy and trust.
- The **promise** is that we will **never be alone** in a valley. His presence and peace are our promise.
- In the valley, **truth becomes real to us**. Our revelation of who He is becomes personal and our faith deepens when He takes us through challenges.

The profound statement made by David: *'the Lord is my shepherd'* can be broken down into three parts:

### 1. He is THE LORD

'The world appears very little to a soul that contemplates the greatness of God.' *The Practice and Presence of God, Brother Lawrence*. It is about seeing Him rightly and submitting to Him rightly. Our awe and wonder of who God is helps us **see Him as Lord** even through difficult times. He isn't only our Lord when everything is going right; even when the deepest struggles come, we trust Him to lead and guide us. (Isa 40:28-29; Ps 146:5-10)

### 2. He is MY SHEPHERD

David calls the Lord 'my' shepherd. He relates to the Lord on a personal level, and we can do the same. Jesus relates to each one of us individually. He knows exactly where we are and what we need. Remember that the shepherd chooses his sheep, and **the Lord chose you** (1 John 4:19). There is security in that He chose me because then He'll look after me.

### 3. I have ALL THAT I NEED

This statement is both a declaration and a decision: 1. All my needs are met by the Lord, my shepherd, and 2. I won't look for my needs to be met by anything or anyone else. The Lord doesn't only provide all we need but **He is all that we need**. He truly cares for you and provides for your whole being.

## Reflection

1. Are you in a valley or field season right now? What are you learning about the Lord in your current season?
2. What does it mean to you to say 'the Lord is my shepherd'? Has seeing Him as your personal shepherd changed your relationship with Him in any way?