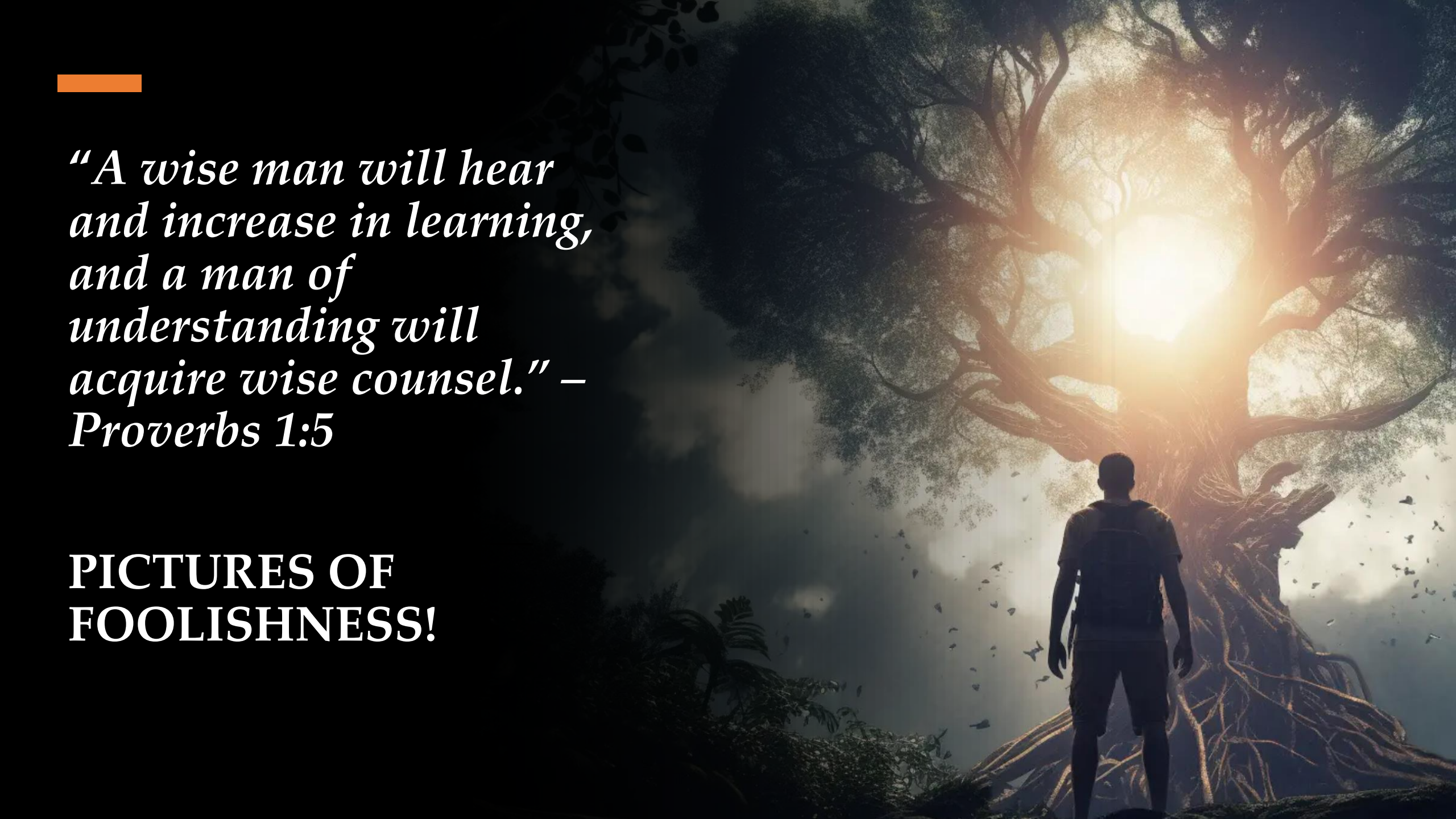


A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. A brilliant, golden light emanates from the center of the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. Numerous small, dark leaves or petals are seen drifting through the air around the tree. The overall mood is one of awe, contemplation, and seeking enlightenment.

WISDOM

for the journey

A person stands in silhouette on a rocky outcrop, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. A brilliant, golden light emanates from the center of the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set against a dark, cloudy sky with many small birds in flight. The overall mood is contemplative and majestic.

*“A wise man will hear
and increase in learning,
and a man of
understanding will
acquire wise counsel.” –
Proverbs 1:5*

**KNOWING OTHERS –
GOSSIP & LISTENING!**

A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. Sunlight streams through the dense canopy of leaves, creating a warm, golden glow. The scene is set in a lush, green environment with other foliage visible in the lower left corner. The overall mood is one of awe and contemplation.

WISDOM

for the journey

We need help to make decisions about work; all relationships – in speech and conduct; who to trust or avoid; along with being measured by the plumbline of true character. Wisdom from Proverbs offers insight into the concrete experiences of human life that help us take charge of our lives.

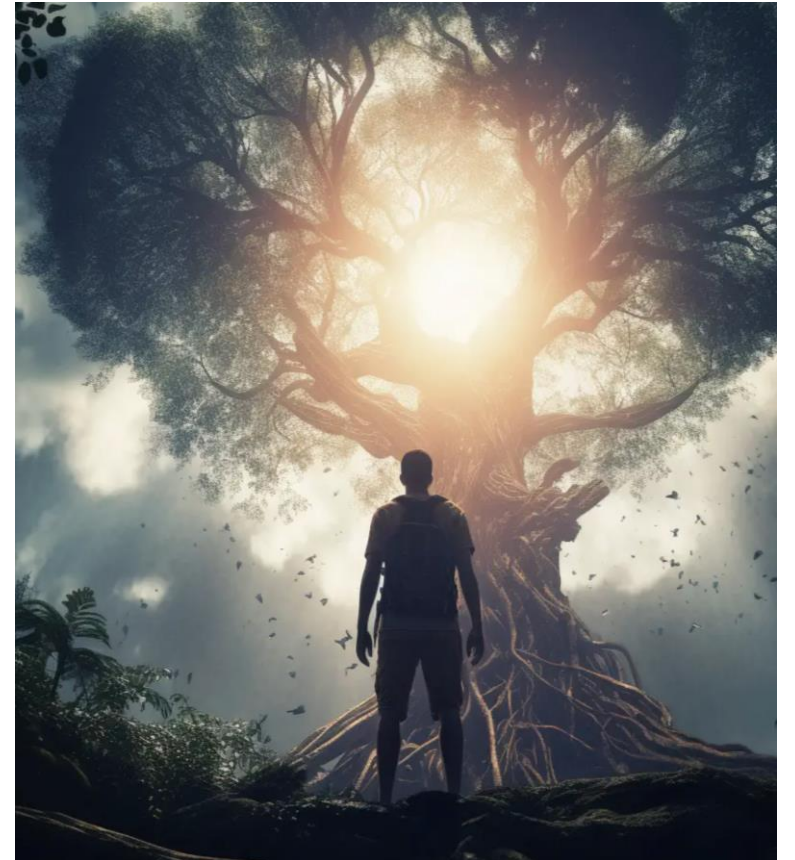
Proverbs is about **how to** live out your faith in God. There is no true wisdom apart from Jesus. Fools are those who rely on their own knowledge to navigate life.

In this study, we will look and listen to hear God's voice and see his Son shining through the book of Proverbs. We will be equipped in every way for our journey!

KNOWING OTHERS – GOSSIP

- Like cancer to the community of Christ!

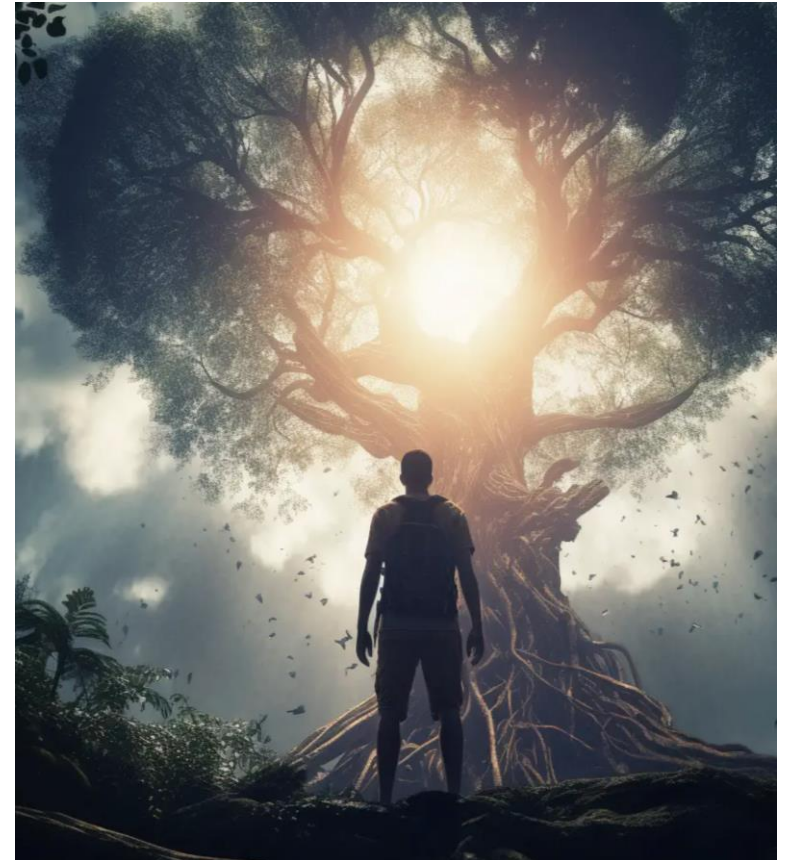
1. **LOSS OF TRUST & CONFIDENCE** - Proverbs 11:13 → Gossip is negative information that may or may not be true, designed to make the speaker and the hearer feel superior to the object of the gossip (James 4:11). It undermines the listener's respect and love for the person being spoken about.
2. **DEVASTATING TO RELATIONSHIPS** – Proverbs 16:28; 26:20 → Gossip separates close friends when the kind of intimate information that close friends know about one another is shared with others. Gossip breeds quarrels and conflict.
3. **SLANDER** – Proverbs 25:23 → James 5:9 says “Don’t grumble against one another,” and the word “grumble” here means literally to groan and roll the eyes at someone. When everyone exchanges exasperated, horrified looks, shakes of the head, eye rolls, sighs, and ironic laughter, the damage is done.



KNOWING OTHERS – LISTENING!

- The most important mark of being teachable!

1. **OPEN TO CORRECTION** – Proverbs 12:1, 15 → We show ourselves to be men of reason only when we listen to feedback. No one becomes wise unless they allow their beliefs of prejudice or falsehood to be tested, examined, and challenged, supremely by God's Word but also by teachers, colleagues, family members, and friends.
2. **TEACHABLE** – Proverbs 15:31-33; 17:10; 19:25; 21:11 → We are not to just be open to discipline and instruction, but we are to habitually seek out others who know more than we do about a subject and learn from them. We are to be marked by being teachable rather than opinionated. A wise man is a discerning man who learns from a single rebuke what others must suffer devastating losses to understand.
3. **MANY ADVISORS** – Proverbs 11:14, 24:5-6 → Proverbs urges you not to merely “get a second opinion” before making a decision, nor even to just consult with a few intimate friends. It calls us to have many advisers, literally a “multitude” of them.





ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

1. When was the last time you saw the “cancer” of gossip effect an individual or a community?
2. Name a belief that changed after you listened to God’s Word?
3. Who are your valued advisors?