Life in the Word Series

Managing Our Emotions

Lesson Thirteen

The Sin of Slander

EPHESIANS 4:31

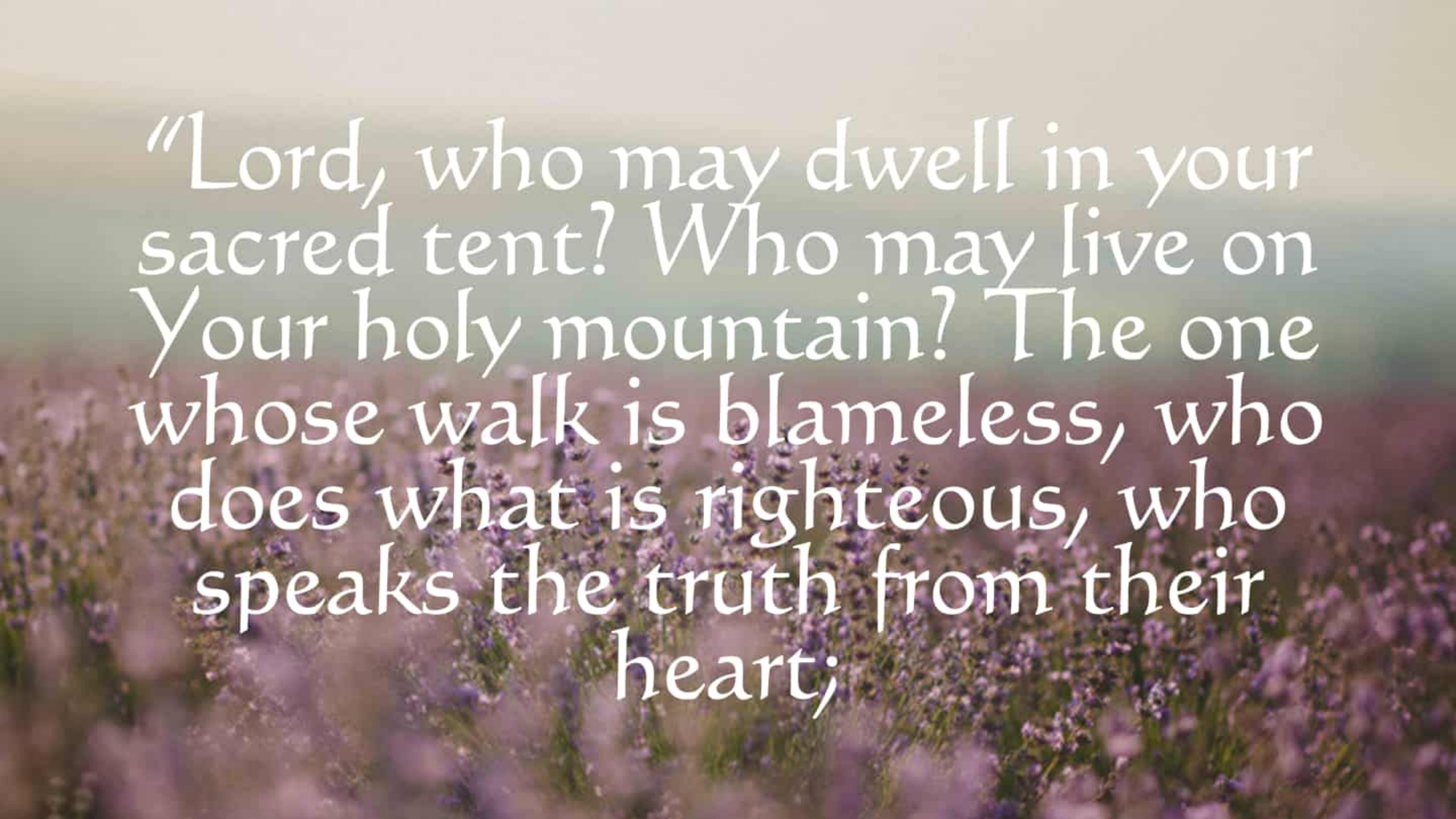
Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

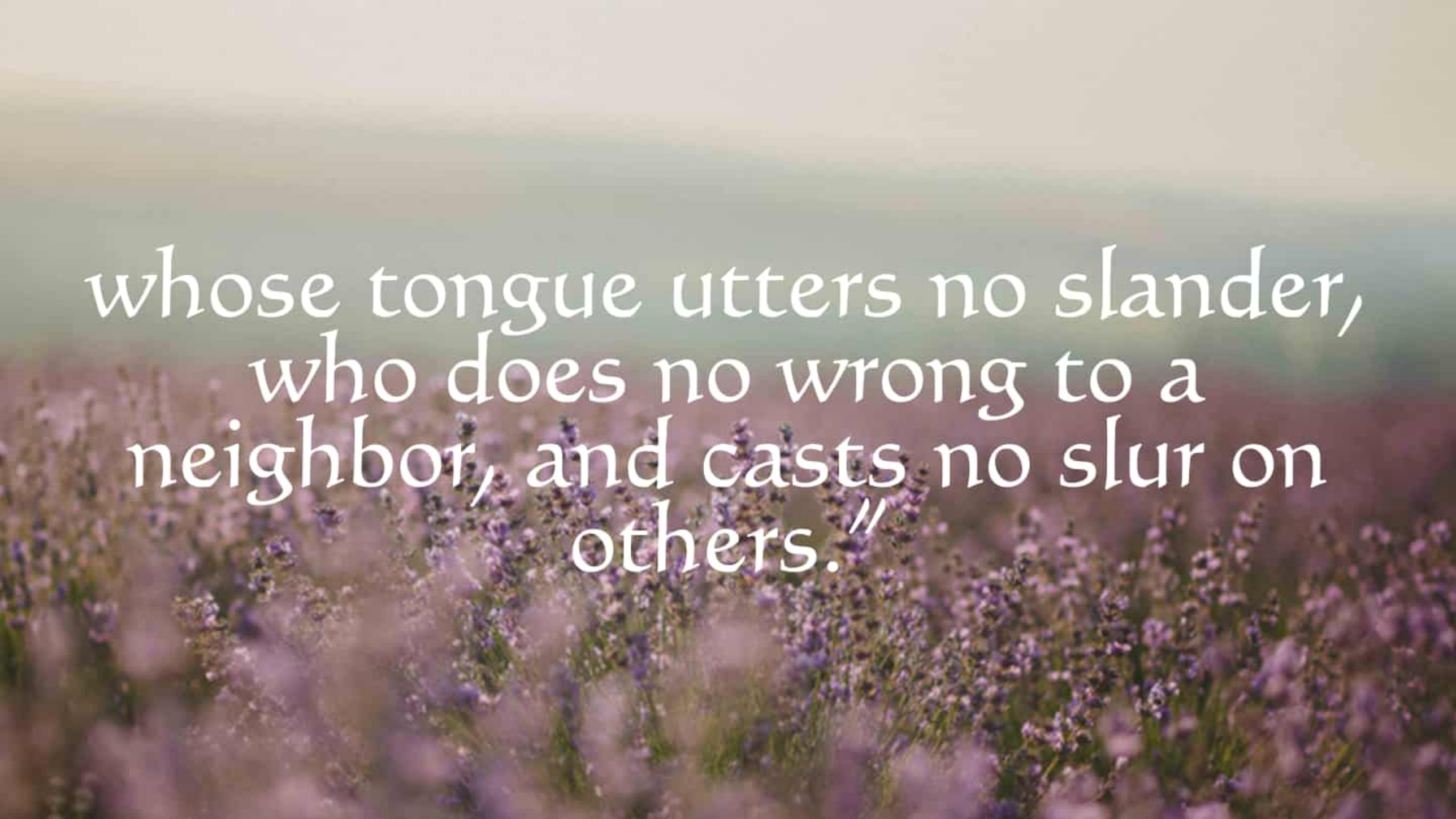
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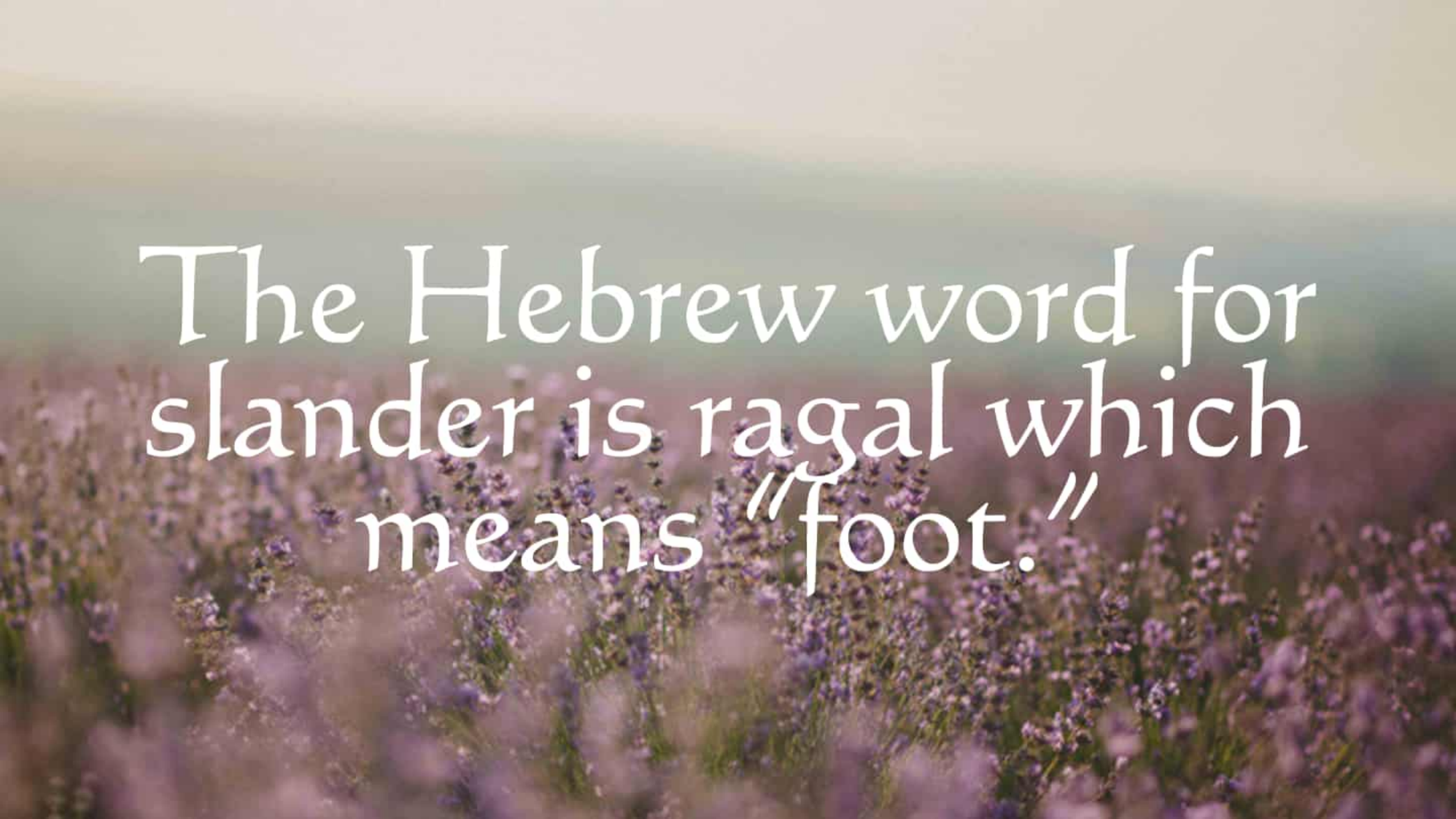
So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

Slander is defined as the malicious use of speech to damage another person's reputation or character.


Scripture Lesson:
Psalm 15:1-3


“Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on Your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart;


whose tongue utters no slander,
who does no wrong to a
neighbor, and casts no slur on
others."


The Hebrew word for slander is ragal which means "foot."


Slander in Hebrew
denotes "walking all over
someone."


Slander does not always shout. Most of the time, it whispers.


The one who spreads slander is a fool.
Proverbs 10:18
A slanderer separates close friends.
Proverbs 16:28


Five Ways
Slander is
Dangerous:

Number One:

Slander Damages a Person's Reputation.


PROVERBS 16:28
A good reputation is more valuable than costly perfume.

Number Two:

Slander Breaks Trust.

PROVERBS 16:28

A perverse person spreads strife, And a slanderer separates close friends.


Number Three:
Slander Multiplies Conflict.

PROVERBS 26:20-21

Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases. As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.

Number Four:

Slander Harms The Innocent.

PSALM 35:11

Malicious witnesses testify against me. They accuse me of crimes I know nothing about.

Number Five:

Slander offends God.

PSALM 101:5

Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate.

An Example of Slander:

Potiphar's Wife (The False Accuser) Genesis 39

Potiphar's Wife
Three Slanderous Actions

1. Played the Victim
2. Leveraged Fear
3. Used Fabricated Evidence

Three Moral Lessons:

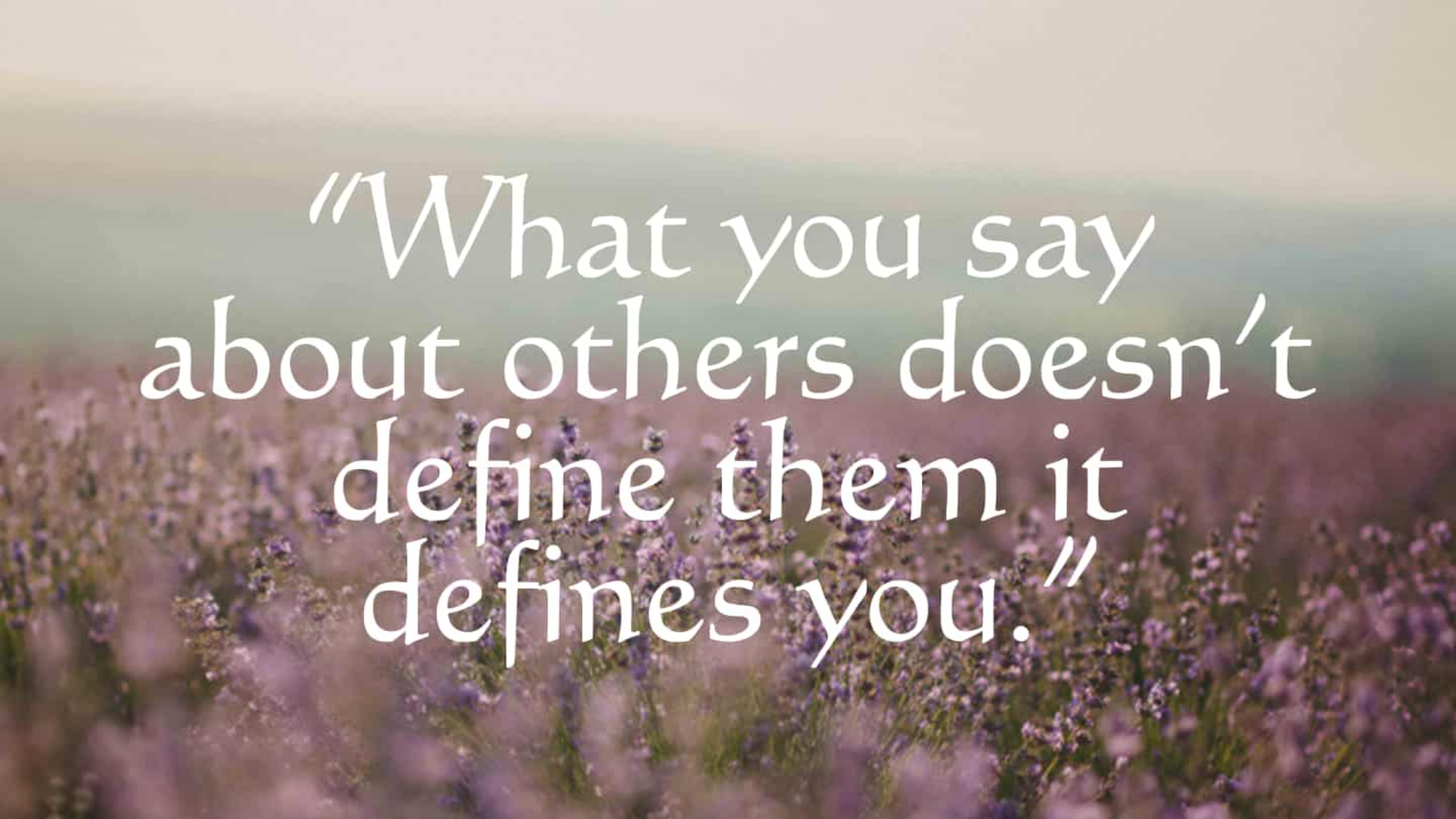
1. Integrity in Adversity
2. The Cost of False Accusations
3. Divine Providence

Seven Ways to Combat Slander:

1. Slow Down
2. Ask Questions, Not Conclusions
3. Refuse to Repeat Accusations
4. Protect Reputations
5. Go Directly To The Person
6. Correct Slander Gently
7. Pray For Restraint

PSALM 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.


"What you say
about others doesn't
define them it
defines you."

Follow Up Chat Questions

1. What is your definition of slander?
2. What is the Hebrew definition for a slanderous person?
3. God views slander as detestable. Why?
4. List the ways slander is dangerous.

Follow Up Chat Questions

5. How was Potiphar's wife slanderous?
6. List ways to combat slander.
7. What resonated most about today's lesson?