

Rewind and reflect

Episode 6

THE
OTHER
SIDE



Summary

This episode is a reminder that Allah is closer than we think. Even if we can't see Him, His presence surrounds us, and closeness to Him isn't about physical distance but about the state of our heart. We draw near through worship, supplication, and sincerity, engaging with Him in ways we may not always recognize—by the excellence of *ihsan* in worship, and the direct connection of *salah*. Abu Yazid al-Bustami once saw Allah in a dream, where he was told, “Leave yourself behind and come closer.” The self—our *nafs*—holds us back, clouded by unchecked desires and distractions. To truly see reality, we must remove the veils of arrogance, greed, and heedlessness from ourselves. We may not perceive Him with our eyes, but our souls already know His nearness. The question is, are we paying attention?

Discussion questions

- 1 Allah says that He is closer to us than our jugular vein [Qur'an, 50:16]. How can the awareness that Allah is always near help you face challenges?
- 2 The Prophet ﷺ said, “Worship Allah as if you can see Him, and if you can't see Him, then know that He sees you.” How can we train ourselves to live with the awareness that Allah is always watching us, even in moments of solitude?

Application

Apply what you watched in a concrete way to help deepen your understanding.

Choose one act of worship you do on a daily basis. Identify practical steps you can take to increase *ihsan* in that worship, and a greater contemplation that Allah is near.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Gather family and friends.
2. Watch **The Other Side, Episode 6**.
3. Read through this guide and discuss the questions provided.
4. Reflect, and grow together in faith.
5. Repeat for **all 30 episodes**.

Ihsan

To do something in a beautiful or excellent way. To worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you cannot see Him, then know that He sees you.

HISTORICAL FIGURES/EVENTS

Mu'adh ibn Jabal

Mu'adh ibn Jabal was a *sahabah* (companion of the Prophet), a scholar, a leader, and one of the most knowledgeable in *halal* and *haram* among the early Muslims. The Prophet ﷺ sent him as a governor to Yemen, entrusted him with teaching Islam, and praised him as one of the best reciters of the Qur'an. Yet despite his knowledge and status, he remained humble and always sought guidance. When he asked the Prophet ﷺ for advice, he was given a blueprint for the soul: Worship Allah as if you see Him to live with full awareness of His presence. Count yourself among the already dead to detach from this world and focus on the next. When you slip, replace it with good—because every mistake is an opportunity to turn back to Allah. This is more than just advice—it's a way to live. How would our life change if we were more like Mu'adh?

Storyline connection

In this episode, we see Anwar reminded of his brother, who lived a life of *ihsan*, and saw Allah in all aspects of his life. What can Anwar learn from his brother before he meets his Lord in the hereafter?

Activity

For one week, take a moment every day to look for Allah in your life. Not just in the big moments, but in the subtle, everyday signs—the food on your plate, the air in your lungs, the warmth of the sun. Write them down. See how Allah provides, protects, and guides you in ways you may have overlooked.

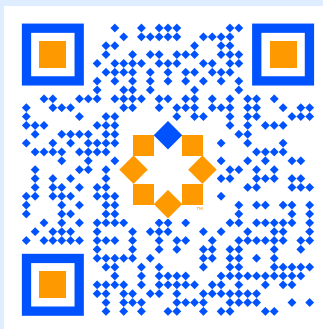
Recognize. Reflect. Imagine—your Lord is closer to you than your jugular vein and say, *alhamdulillah*. Feel the weight of gratitude settle in your heart. Because even when you don't see Him, He sees you. Let gratitude shift your perspective and open your heart to a new way of seeing.

Parent tip

When discussing this topic with children, focus on the idea that meeting Allah is a beautiful and joyous reunion, like finally seeing a loved one after a long time apart. Explain that this life is a journey where we try our best to be kind, do good deeds, and prepare for that special day. Reassure them that Allah is the Most Loving and the Most Merciful, and He wants us to live in a way that brings us happiness in this world and the next.

Learn more

Watch this video, discuss, and reflect. Click here or scan this QR code.



References

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "A slave becomes nearest to his Rabb when he is in prostration. So increase supplications while prostrating." [Muslim]

The Prophet ﷺ said, "Ihsan is that you worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you cannot see Him, then know that He sees you." [Bukhari and Muslim]

We would love to hear from you

Please complete this brief survey to help us improve our discussion guides. All responses will remain confidential. Thank you for sharing your thoughts—may Allah guide us to the best possible Ramadan experience. Click here or scan this QR code.

