

Rewind and reflect

Episode 16

THE
OTHER
SIDE



Summary

The number one reason people will find themselves in the Fire isn't their wealth, their status, or even their major sins, it's their tongue. Words don't just disappear once they're spoken; they follow us, weighing for or against us in the hereafter. This episode warns against the devastating consequences of careless speech, reminding us that the tongue is not just what we say out loud—it includes every message we type, every comment we post, and even the way we communicate through body language. The damage caused by a single word can outlive us, leaving wounds that may hurt us in the Barzakh. The question is: how often do we truly think before we speak? Are we mindful of how our words will be judged when we stand before Allah? Every phrase, every post, every conversation is either building our beautiful home in Paradise or pushing us away.

Discussion questions

- 1 How do words, spoken or typed, affect others? Why do you think the Prophet ﷺ was so persistent on good speech?
- 2 One of the major causes of punishment for Muslims on the Day of Judgment is from the pain they caused others with their tongues. Reflect on how you can be more mindful and ensure you only speak where there is benefit.

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.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Gather family and friends.
2. Watch **The Other Side, Episode 16**.
3. Read through this guide and discuss the questions provided.
4. Reflect, and grow together in faith.
5. Repeat for **all 30 episodes**.

Ghibah (backbiting)

Speaking ill of someone in their absence in a way they would dislike if they heard it.

References

The Prophet ﷺ said: "The number one reason for people falling into the fire on the Day of Judgment is the tongue." [Jami' at-Tirmidhi #2616]

"Believers, no one group of men should jeer at another, who may after all be better than them; no one group of women should jeer at another, who may after all be better than them; do not speak ill of one another; do not use offensive nicknames for one another. How bad it is to be called a mischief-maker after accepting faith! Those who do not repent of this behaviour are evildoers.

Believers, avoid making too many assumptions—some assumptions are sinful—and do not spy on one another or speak ill of people behind their backs: Would any of you like to eat the flesh of your dead brother? No, you would hate it. So be mindful of God: God is Ever-Relenting, Most Merciful." [Qur'an, 49:11–12]

Activity

Think Before You Speak

Sometimes, it's easier to avoid situations where gossip happens than to stop someone from speaking ill of others. But if you find yourself in a setting where people are gossiping, how can you use your words wisely to protect someone's honor instead of falling into backbiting, mockery, or slander?

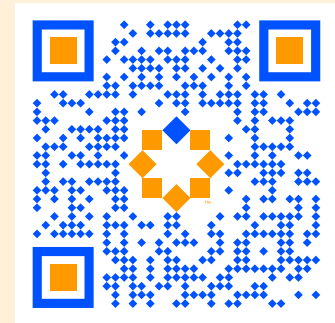
To deepen your understanding, take a moment to reflect:

- 1 Think about a time when you heard something unkind being said about someone in their absence.
- 2 Describe the situation (without mentioning names) where you either spoke carelessly, listened to gossip, or allowed backbiting to continue.
- 3 How did you respond? Did you ignore it, walk away, or engage?
- 4 If faced with a similar situation today, how would you handle it differently?
- 5 Brainstorm a few positive and respectful ways to disengage from backbiting so you're prepared if the situation arises again.

By being mindful of our words and actions, we can create a habit of protecting the honor of others and ensuring that our speech benefits rather than harms us in the Barzakh.

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