

November Bible Study Series

# **Avoiding Toxic Talk**

Lesson Two:

Sins of the Tongue (Part II)

## **How to Shutdown Gossip**

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## **Lesson One Review**

1. What is a Toxic Tongue?
2. God Places a Strong Emphasis on the Sins of the Tongue.
3. Three things God hates: A Lying Tongue, A False Witness and He who Sows Discord among Brethren.
4. Words Reveal the Man.

# **We Need To Think Before We Speak**

James 1:19 – “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”

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## **The Wise Old Owl**

“A wise old owl lived in an oak.

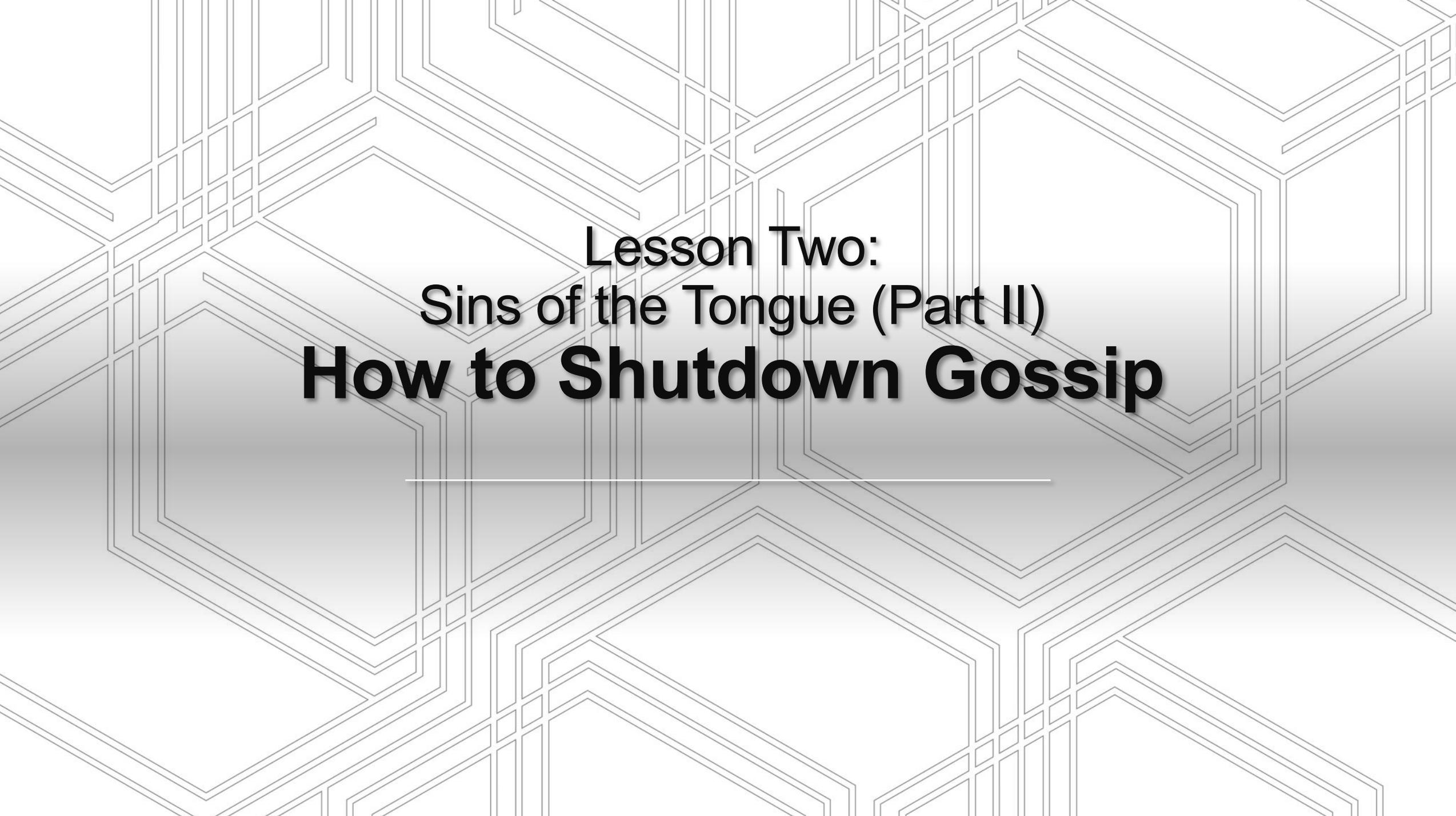
The more he saw the less he spoke.

The less he spoke the more he heard;

Why can't we all be like that bird?”

“Many things are opened by mistake, but none so frequent as one’s mouth.”

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Lesson Two:  
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# **What is Gossip?**

Gossip is basically talking about someone in a negative way that could lead to others doing the same.

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# **What is a Talebearer?**

A Talebearer is a person who maliciously gossips or reveals secrets.

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## **Three Gates Of Gold:**

**1. Is It True?**

**2. Is It Kind?**

**3. Is It Needful?**

**Proverbs 11:13** – “A talebearer reveals secrets,  
but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.”

**Proverbs 17:9** – “He who covers a transgression  
seeks love, but he who repeats a matter  
separates friends.”

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# **Why Do So Many Christians Tolerate Gossip?**

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# **How Should Christians Respond to Gossip?**

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## **1. Mind Your Own Words**

**“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”**

**Ephesians 4:29 NIV**

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“Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.”

**James 1:26 NIV**

“The one who guards his mouth and tongue keeps himself out of trouble.”

**Proverbs 21:23 CSB**

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## **2. Acknowledge That It Is Gossip**

**“Listening to gossip is like eating cheap candy; do you really want junk like that in your belly?”**

**Proverbs 18:8 MSG**

“Gossip dies when it enters the  
ears of the wise.”

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“At the same time, they also learn to be idle, going from house to house; they are not only idle, but are also gossips and busybodies, saying things they shouldn’t say.”

**1 Timothy 5:13 CSB**

“With their mouths the godless destroy their neighbors, but through knowledge the righteous escape.”

**Proverbs 11:9 NIV**

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### **3. Confront Gossip and Shut It Down**

#### **Two Options:**

Ignore it and walk away

Confront it and shut it down

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“Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel  
dies down.”

**Proverbs 26:20 NIV**

“Do not spread false reports. Do not help a guilty person by  
being a malicious witness.”

**Exodus 23:1 NIV**

“Sin is not ended by multiplying words, but the prudent hold  
their tongues.”

**Proverbs 10:19 NIV**

“Gossip is the devil’s radio, so  
don’t be his DJ”

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## **4. Turn Gossip into an Opportunity for Prayer**

“Set a guard over my mouth, Lord;  
keep watch over the door of my lips.”

Psalm 141:3 NIV

“ Real friends don’t gossip  
they pray.”

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# **WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT GOSSIP?**

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“Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.”

**2 Timothy 2:16 NIV**

“A gossip betrays a confidence; so, avoid anyone who talks too much.”

**Prov. 20:19 NIV**

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“Do not go about spreading slander among your people; do not jeopardize your neighbor’s life; I am the Lord.”

**Leviticus 19:16 (Christian Standard Bible)**

“Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice.”

**Ephesians 4:31 CSB**

“I will destroy anyone who secretly slanders his neighbor; I cannot tolerate anyone with haughty eyes or an arrogant heart.”

**Psalms 101:3 CSB**

# **RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT OF GOSSIP AS A CHRISTIAN**

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# **7 PROMISES FOR OVERCOMING THE SPIRIT OF GOSSIP**

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## **1. WE WILL ENJOY LIFE MORE.**

“If you want joy in your life and have happy days, keep your tongue from saying bad things and your lips from talking bad about others”

**1 Peter 3:10 NLV**

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## **2. WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE AN ANSWER.**

“Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone”

**Colossians 4:6 NLT**

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### **3. WE WILL HAVE CLOSE FRIENDS.**

“Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends”

**Proverbs 17:9 NLT**

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## **4. WE WILL HAVE HEALING.**

“Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing”

**Proverbs 12.18 NLT**

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## **5. WE WILL HAVE SATISFACTION.**

“Wise words satisfy like a good meal; the  
right words bring satisfaction”

**Proverbs 18:20 NLT**

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## **6. WE WILL HAVE PEACE.**

“He who watches over his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles”

**Proverbs 21:23 NLV**

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## **7. WE WILL HAVE LIFE.**

“The tongue can bring death or life; those  
who love to talk will reap the  
consequences”

**Proverbs 18.21 NLT**

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**Let us love to tell the story of Jesus,  
but let's hate to tell anyone else's  
story unless it builds up the body of  
Christ.**

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## **Follow Up Chat**

### Homework Share

1. How can I deal with my own gossip?
2. Why do people gossip about one another?
3. “Do women really gossip more than men?”

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4. How can you shut down gossip without causing a much bigger fire?

5. How would you respond if someone gossip about you?

6. Are You A Social Butterfly?

7. “Be careful who you open up to. Only a few people care, the rest just want to have something to gossip about.”