

Family Talk & Skill Builder Game # 1

Roll 2 dice twice to locate a table cell. First roll is vertical and second roll is horizontal. 12 = you choose a number. Or use a deck of cards where you ignore face cards and the ace is 11. Take turns clockwise. If that cell item has already been dialogued, use one from any cell touching the cell of the numbers. Then, complete the sentence. When a person answers, others ask curious questions to get to know that family member better, but never to criticize. The best questions are "Why?" and "What do you mean?" Then, going around the circle, everyone answers that same question. This process repeats with the next person clockwise (or you can go by age, from the youngest to oldest). For the very best results, read the free article "Successful Family Dialogue" at www.ChurchesReachOut.com.

*The publisher, organization and person who gave you this tool cannot be responsible for the outcome of your conversations. Use good judgment. If conflict arises, stop immediately and seek the expert help of a professional counselor or psychotherapist.

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	Getting to Know You	Favorites	Memories	Wishes & Dreams	Thinking Together	Best Ways	Choices	Survival & Success	Positive Attitude	Problem Solving	
	Finish the statement	What is your favorite & why?	Tell a memory of . . .	Answer	What do you think about . . . ?	What is the best way to . . . ?	What should happen if you . . . ?	Answer	Name 3 good things about . . .	How would you handle this?	
2	I usually feel real good when . . .	fast food	a doll; throwing something; or yummy food	What kind of person would you like to be?	money	organize your bedroom	make others feel bad	What poisonous snakes live near? How stay safe?	rain	you want to plan a really fun party for your friends	2
3	I enjoy my . . .	type of weather	a time when you made people feel happy	What kind of treasure would you like to search for?	reading	talk at the dinner table	don't get to bed on time	How do you make good friends?	vacations	invited to a birthday party and you have homework	3
4	I wish I knew how to . . .	fictional hero	a windy day; or something done in water	What personal task would you like to never have to do?	school or work	celebrate your birthday	tease or joke harmfully	How do you keep safe from lightning?	flies	find more time to do homework or job training	4
5	On vacation I would most like to . . .	relaxing spot	a funny animal; or a happening at night	What kind of lessons would you like to take?	putting things away when you are done	escape if our house was on fire	let a friend convince you to do wrong	How do you avoid food poisoning?	no money for a day	you find a lot of money someone has left by mistake	5
6	My favorite holiday is . . .	real life hero	a grandfather; a souvenir; or a gift you gave	How popular would you like to be? Why?	the elderly (seniors)	get your homework done on time	don't take care of your possessions	How to handle not getting what you want?	difficult tasks	a little brother or sister keeps bothering you	6
7	3 of my favorite things are . . .	smell	a wish that came true; ice cream; or a farm animal	If you could, what would you do to end world hunger?	chores	clean the kitchen	are not hospitable to your own house guests	What do you do for choking?	reading	choose between two good friends to do something with	7
8	I would spend \$500 tomorrow on . . .	web site or thing that is red	being too cold; or a time you hurt yourself	What Olympic Gold Medal would you like to win?	selfish people	have fun when you are losing	waste food	How do you best show interest in others?	giving to those who are less fortunate	trapped somewhere for 4 hours and are very bored	8
9	At home I like to . . .	candy	a fantastic place you went; or a natural disaster	What kind of TV show would you like to produce?	taking care of your clothes	come out of a bad mood	leave the bathroom messy	What do you do if a burglar is in the house?	losing a game	how to deal with people who don't treat you nicely	9
10	If I were invisible, I would . . .	act of kindness	a trip to the city or country; or cooking	What unusual means of travel would you do?	substance abuse (drugs & alcohol)	handle a mistake	do drugs or drink alcohol	What can you do about boredom?	giving a person a compliment	friends criticize you for helping someone less popular	10
11	My favorite time of day is . . .	month of the year	a book you have read; or your favorite store	What famous person would you like in your family?	doing things with the family	tell someone you don't want to be their friend	don't willingly help out when needed	What do you do if you become lost?	electricity is out	you need help for a school subject or job assignment	11

Your Church Name & Other Information Goes Here

Information of your choosing goes here.

(example)

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1289 East Willow Road
River Bend, California

www.rbcxchurch.org

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WHAT IS DIALOGUE?

There is probably no finer communication skill than dialogue. Therefore, if your family does it, you will build better and better relationships through understanding and caring.

DIALOGUE IS MERELY ASKING QUESTIONS OF EACH OTHER OUT OF CURIOSITY IN ORDER TO BETTER KNOW AND UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER

Dialogue usually means just asking the questions "Why?" and "What do you mean?" over and over again. When you ask a person a "why" question, it usually opens up a bit of new information about him or her. Another "why" question yields a little more. When a "why" question seems hard to think of, then any simple, friendly, non-judgmental question motivated by curiosity is fine.

Such dialogue helps you find out what others really think and feel. It also helps others find out what you really think and feel.

Understanding and accepting other people – deeper and deeper through dialogue – knowing how others think and feel, as well as what they really mean by what they say, creates much better relationships.

GUIDELINES FOR DIALOGUE

For good dialogue, it is important to follow these ground rules:

1. Answer what is true for you. Other family members will try to remember what you said so they can better understand you and treat you better.
2. Listen in order to understand the person talking, not to change him or her.
3. No arguing, criticizing or objecting. People hate to be criticized over things they say. They know what they think and feel, and they consider it absurd and insensitive if others think they know these things better.
4. Ask lots of questions (usually "Why?" or "What do you mean?") to clarify what is being communicated. Other clarifying questions can be: "What?" "What for?" "How?" "When?" "How come?" "Where?" "In what way?" "Can you explain?" "Please tell me more."
5. Refrain from giving advice or breaking in with your own contribution.
6. Let people be themselves, even if they give an answer that you do not agree with or like. Instead of objecting or offering criticism, ask the other persons "Why" questions. This will help you clarify what they are saying, what they think and feel about things, and who they are. People will appreciate your efforts to understand them.
7. Avoid conflict. There are no right or wrong answers. There is just what a person says. He or she will appreciate you for asking about and learning from his or her own words.
8. Solve problems only after much dialogue has produced deeper understanding. Dialogue may expose some differences that might have to be solved. Make a note of those you think might need later discussion and problem-solving. During dialogue, do not bring up problems.