

Great Couple Conversations # 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, answer the question. When a person answers, the other asks curious questions to get to know the partner better, but never to criticize. The process repeats with the other person answering the same question and being asked questions in a curious manner. For the very best results, read the free article "Successful Couple Dialogue" at www.ChurchesReachOut.com.

*The designers, publishers, organizations and persons who gave you this tool cannot be responsible for any specific outcome. 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	
2 & 3	Who are your three closest friends and why are each important?	What names or nicknames have you had?	What is the best way for you to go to bed to get a good night's sleep?	Who is/was one of your favorite television personalities?	What are a few of the things you just cannot tolerate?	2 & 3
4 & 5	What do you do to give yourself energy to pursue a challenge?	Who is a person who has greatly influenced your life? How?	What inspires you or moves you to action?	Do you have any physical handicaps?	Who is/was your favorite uncle?	4 & 5
6 & 7	What activities drain your energy away?	What were/are your grandparents like?	What are some things you really liked about each of your siblings?	Do you like to travel? How? Why or why not?	What are some things you really liked about your father?	6 & 7
8 & 9	What do you really think of compliments?	Why do you want to stay alive?	Who is/was your favorite aunt?	How do we want to handle telephone solicitations?	What have you done recently that you feel good about?	8 & 9
10 & 11	What are some things you really liked about your mother?	What inspires you?	What is an adventure for you?	What would you buy if you had to spend \$1,000,000 on yourself?	Who is/was your favorite cousin?	10 & 11

	2 & 3	4 & 5	6 & 7	8 & 9	10 & 11	
2 & 3	Who are you sure really appreciates you?	What is something you appreciate about me?	What don't you like about yourself?	Where would you go right now, if you could magically be anywhere?	What do you really think of marriage?	2 & 3
4 & 5	How would you give away \$250,000?	What would you like to accomplish that seems impossible?	What do you believe about God?	What dead famous person would you like to spend a day with?	What is a good quality you got from your mother?	4 & 5
6 & 7	What is your favorite gesture of friendship?	What is a good quality you got from your father?	What frightens you the most about the future?	Have you ever seen or experienced a miracle?	In high school, what did you do when you came home?	6 & 7
8 & 9	How important is our relationship?	What kind of compliments do you get?	In junior high/middle school, what did you do when you came home?	For what store would you prefer to have a \$5,000 gift certificate?	What gift would you get me if you had \$2,000 to spend?	8 & 9
10 & 11	What did you do when you came home from grade school?	What is the weakest part of your body? Can anything be done?	What do you like best to do with me? (other than sexual)	What do you do to restore a sense of peace and well-being?	What kinds of things do you do to get people to notice you?	10 & 11

Your Church Name & Other Information Goes Here

Information of your choosing goes here.

(example)

River Bend Community Church

1289 East Willow Road
River Bend, California

www.rbcxchurch.org

(876) 987-XXXX

If you order a license,
this space is blank
so that you can insert
whatever your church wants
in this space.

This space can also be used as
advertising for someone who
wants to pay the expense of this
outreach effort.

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WHAT IS DIALOGUE?

There is probably no finer communication skill than dialogue. Therefore, if you do it, you will build a better and better relationship 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. The other person will try to remember what you said so that she or he 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.