

Family Talk & Skill Builder Game #7

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	The best movie I ever saw was . . .	type of pet	something your parents did to enjoy themselves	What are the best things to do on Christmas?	saving money	handle disappointment	are roughhousing out of control	How do people live within their financial means?	not being good at something	someone doesn't like you and you need to change that	2
3	On the computer, I most like to . . .	coin	a cartoon; or a time you did something wrong	How would you spend a million dollars on yourself?	teaching the family something	tell a friend, "No."	forget to put on your seat belt	How do you help people feel better about themselves?	not much choice of things to eat	you see a stranger damaging public property	3
4	The thing I like most about my family is . . .	time of year	a song you like; a charity you gave money to; or a lie	Describe a fantastic vacation near water.	strange adults who might be dangerous	keep from cheating	do not speak clearly	How good are you at listening to advice?	a bath or shower	you have lied to your parents and need to re-establish their trust	4
5	I smile when . . .	sound to listen to	a favorite pet; a smaller child; or something fast	Would you rather be a coach, or a conductor?	traveling to school or work	take care of important things	misbehave in restaurants	How do you treat frostbite?	not enough pizza	a good friend of yours is being abused by a parent	5
6	I wish there were no . . .	video game	flowers; or a performing animal	Name a thing you would like a relative to do with you.	helping those less fortunate	decide what you need to tell and what is tattletale	hit, shove, bite, or use power plays	What will help you know what you need and what you don't?	high gasoline prices	your two best friends are not speaking to each other	6
7	If I had a lot of money, I would . . .	restaurant for breakfast	a time you were sick; or something cold	Describe a fantastic vacation in another country.	eating habits	keep in touch with feelings	do drugs	How do you get a good job?	cheaper toys	someone asks to go along and you do not want him or her to go	7
8	I really enjoy . . .	thing that is green	being too hot; going someplace fast; or the sun	Which famous person's life would you live for one day?	gun safety	use other people's things	are jealous	How can you grow in caring for others more than yourself?	vegetables	get parents to like a friend whom they don't like at all	8
9	Once in a while I get angry when . . .	current project	someone you liked at school; or Spring	How would you spend \$2,000 on new clothing?	getting along with people	get along with your brothers and sisters	belch or pass gas inappropriately	What do you do about a toothache?	being understood by others	get home and realize that a store charged you too much	9
10	I think I could be happier if . . .	bird	someone who made you laugh; or earning money	If you were Santa Claus, what would you do?	study habits and learning	complain about something	are being too stubborn	How do you decide what is fun and what is a waste of time?	being different than others	people shun you for being so liked by the teacher or boss	10
11	I think I need to . . .	card game to play	your bike; a gift you received; or getting hurt	What is a fantastic vacation where you would risk your life.	losing a game	minimize pollution	are not thankful when people do things for you	How do you avoid carbon monoxide poisoning?	walking uphill	want a parent or friend to stop smoking or cheating	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 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.