

# Family Talk & Skill Builder Game #3

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](http://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	
	<b>Getting to Know You</b>	<b>Favorites</b>	<b>Memories</b>	<b>Wishes &amp; Dreams</b>	<b>Thinking Together</b>	<b>Best Ways</b>	<b>Choices</b>	<b>Survival &amp; Success</b>	<b>Positive Attitude</b>	<b>Problem Solving</b>	
	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	My favorite place is . . .	day of the week	the most fun party ever; or jumping	What would you like a computer to be able to do?	having fun	handle disagreements	don't get along with your siblings	What do you do to stay safe at and around school?	ants	in the middle of the night, you hear a thief in your house	2
3	What I like best about the city is . . .	type of precipitation (rain, snow, etc.)	a school trip; or something strange	What kind of a map would you like to be following now?	your moods	put away your toys	don't do all of your chores on time	What do you do if you sprain an ankle?	brushing teeth and flossing daily	your friend talks all the time; he/she is very annoying	3
4	After I grow up . . .	non-fiction book	something you wish could happen again	What kind of movie would you like to star in?	television	clean the bathroom	get too angry	How do you survive if lost in the mountains?	mistakes	you need to talk your best friend into learning to swim	4
5	I like to laugh (at or when) . . .	dessert	being alone; or something you did really well	Earth will be destroyed in 7 days. What do you do?	morals and doing the right things	ride your bike safely	steal or shoplift	How will you take care of your teeth?	being alone	parents do not like the amount of time you are on the computer	5
6	I think it's good that . . .	fish species (not to eat)	the most fun holiday ever; or staying at a motel	What is something you would like to do with a friend?	throwing parties for your friends	help out when someone is sick	don't clean the kitchen properly	How do you safely use things with an electrical cord?	exercise	do a good job taking photos at a family birthday party	6
7	I hope I don't lose . . .	type of party	a boat; playing an instrument; or a collection	Describe a fantastic vacation in the mountains.	keeping yourself safe	keep your good clothes clean	don't dress correctly for the weather	How do you stay safe around strange dogs?	safe driving	can't do everything you want to at an amusement park	7
8	My favorite meat is . . .	magazine or newspaper	doing chores; a tool you like to use; or a chair	What superpower would you like to have?	gambling	notify us when you have done something wrong	do an unacceptable job on something	How is it necessary to be careful around cars?	rainy or snowy days	people are making fun of your best friend	8
9	One thing that really made me happy was . . .	table game	an aunt; or when you were the center of attention	Where would your ideal home be located?	helping to clean up the neighborhood	help out mom and/or dad	don't admit when you are wrong	What can you do to protect your eyes?	disagreement	you need to prepare for a competition you want to win	9
10	I would like to give a gift of . . .	thing about a mother, father, brother or sister	a strange way you have used food; or furniture	What kind of book would you like to write?	doing things the right way	help others feel good and like themselves	don't take good care of your clothes	How do you safely use a lawnmower?	cleaning up pet poop	a friend is better than you at doing something	10
11	When I think of hungry people . . .	human quality (something about people)	a really fun ride; spilling something; or a letter	What higher education degree would you earn?	doing things outside	get emergency help	do too much complaining or pout	How do you stop hiccups?	not wanting too many things	remember to pay back money you borrowed for lunch	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.