

# Family Talk & Skill Builder Game #8

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	
	Getting to Know You	Favorites	Memories	Emotions	Thinking Together	Best Ways	Choices	Survival & Success	Positive Attitude	Wishes & Dreams	
	Finish the statement	What is your favorite & why?	Tell a memory of . . .	What makes you feel . . . ?	What do you think about . . . ?	What is the best way to . . . ?	What should happen if you . . . ?	Answer * teens only	Name 3 good things about . . .	Answer	
2	I really like to . . .	television persona	a friend's favorite toy; or a trick you learned	awkward	playing sports	clean your room and make your bed	want to be pampered	What things would you put in a budget once on your own?	enemies	About what would you like to appear in the news?	2
3	My favorite T.V. show is . . .	rainy day activity	ice; a sandbox; or having your picture taken	lonely	your sisters and brothers	keep cool in hot weather	are unappreciative of what is done for you	How do you keep a house clean and in good repair?	huge empty boxes	What would the "best birthday party ever" look like?	3
4	I would not like to be without . . .	three friends	a secret place; or a friend who surprised you	relaxed	taking friends along with the family	chew food	do not have enough friends	What healthy habits are necessary for a successful life?	Winter	What kind of servant would you like to be able to hire?	4
5	I get sad when . . .	hobby or craft	your face; eating; or something sticky	coming unglued	taking lessons in something	remember to put away your outside toys	do not behave for the child care worker or sitter	How do you handle power plays by other people?	not doing "finders - keepers"	What one event would you like to change in history?	5
6	It really bothers me that . . .	wildest ride (amusement park, etc.)	bullies; something in water; or a special meal	angry	keeping friends	deal with an intruder	interrupt others when they are talking	How do you do the Heimlich Maneuver for choking?	looking forward to something	In what fiction story would you like to live?	6
7	I feel the most excited when . . .	television show	a friend who helped you with a difficult situation	sad	alcoholic beverages	answer the phone	take dangerous risks or do not act safe	Best way to avoid alcohol or drug use and addiction?	manners	What animal would you like to be for a week?	7
8	I really like to play . . .	flower	a playground place; or a friend of a different race	calm	keeping yourself from getting sick	take photographs	talk disrespectfully to your brothers or sisters	How do car drivers stay out of accidents?	spending time with strangers	Where would you go in a submarine or spaceship?	8
9	I could use some help with . . .	safe place	something you did that surprised someone	embarrassed	being reckless	use the stove	don't take your shower or bath	What do you need to do to keep your car running well?	clouds	What scientific discovery would you like to make?	9
10	My favorite color is . . .	outdoor sport to watch	something fun; or someone important you once met	refreshed	having people visit us	arrange for alone time	climb on forbidden things or in forbidden places	How are you going to handle pressure from your peers?	yellow	What kind of high school hero would you like to be?	10
11	I wonder if . . .	kind of scenery	a time you got lost; a flashlight; or spying	enthusiastic	taking medicines	not ask to be bought too many things	borrow and do not pay back	How will you establish a good credit rating?	missing a good movie	What would you like to invent?	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**

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this space is blank  
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This space can also be used as  
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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.