

# Family Talk & Skill Builder Game #9

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 * teens only	Name 3 good things about . . .	How would you handle this?	
2	My favorite game is . . .	toy without wheels	a very difficult thing you once had to do	What very difficult thing do you wish you could do?	health and care of the body	do your best in school	bully others	How will you keep from becoming a parent too soon?	getting to places on time	you need to decide if you want to pursue some job or activity	2
3	If I were a machine, I would like to be a . . .	ice cream flavor	traveling to school; or getting your hair cut	Who are some people you would like to see again?	watching movies	keep your room picked up	pick your nose in public	What is going to be your attitude about working?	the police	a friend is talking about suicide or about running away	3
4	I would like to . . .	thing to do in the dark	a really important event in your life	How would you describe Earth to an alien?	wasting food	ask each other for help	do your chores too slowly	How do you drive differently in rain and snow?	old person's repeated stories	you want to overcome prejudice about certain people	4
5	I really hope that . . .	charity (organization that helps others)	a wild animal; a trip to the library; or cars	What cartoon character would you like to be for a day?	how to deal with boredom	let others be themselves	boss people around	What must you do if lost driving in a dangerous area?	good, clean, jokes	a friend is not taking good care of something borrowed	5
6	One time I really enjoyed was . . .	relative	a surprise; or something dangerous	For what would you like to be famous?	our back yard or kitchen	use the Internet	do not stay in bed once you are there	How can you avoid worry?	an extra way to make a few extra dollars	you are with friends when they begin to do something illegal	6
7	I feel kind of bad when . . .	person other than a relative	something that made your mom and dad sad	What would you like to investigate as a spy?	going to restaurants and eating out	lock up our home	throw temper tantrums	How will you prevent burglary of home and car?	a timeout period	suggest a family project to help someone less fortunate	7
8	On gloomy days I like to . . .	school subjects	a mistake your mom or dad once made; or a fish	What would you like to do to mean people?	accepting that I am the boss	get up on time (get out of bed on time)	dress too sloppy for some occasions	How do you need to manage your time for success?	a broken computer	your friend asks you to lie for him or her to parents or boss	8
9	If I were real strong, I would . . .	past vacation	building something; or something messy	Which friend's life would you like to live for a week?	planning some activities for the family	be nice to kids that are very different	are addicted to playing video games	Can you think for yourself? Is it necessary?	celebrating someone's victory	raise your own money to go to camp or take lessons	9
10	When I am with my family, I like to . . .	sports team	going to a store; a play house; or going very fast	What color would you like your new car to be?	your allowance	do your best at a sport	exhibit poor manners at mealtime	How will you save money?	ignoring gossip	you are not prepared for something and need to fail gracefully	10
11	When I am bored, I like to . . .	television advertisement	your father; or crossing a street or river	What would you ask aliens from outer space?	flowers	remember to turn off lights when done	swear or use foul language	How will you keep a positive attitude when things get rough?	volunteering your talents	a committee to make things better at school or work	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  
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This space can also be used as  
advertising for someone who  
wants to pay the expense of this  
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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.