

Transition Is a Family Affair (Prefurlough)

Some Ideas for Prompting Discussion Around the Dinner Table

Transition: moving from one state or condition to another.

Moving: to go away from where one is.

REALITY shows us: Furlough or moving can be a very unsettling time for all the members of a family.

OBJECTIVE: To help families talk about their feelings and experiences. All families need to do this, but it is especially helpful during times of transition. Transition is a state that many ministry families are in for a good part of their lives.

INSTRUCTIONS: Reproduce these sheets of conversation starters on colored card stock, or use them as they are. Cut them apart and place them face down in a box or bowl. For one month, use them during the main family meal of the day. During or after the meal, have one family member draw a "question of the day" to use for discussion. Each person will take his turn in responding to that question.

Note to parents: You may have to reword some of these questions to relate to younger children. If some of the ideas don't really apply to your family's experience, you can go on to another.

Originally compiled & designed by:
Jim & Ruth Lauer

Adapted by: *Int'l CHED staff*

© *Barnabas International*
& *SIL International*

Dear Parents,

When your family relocates, either for a furlough or for a change of assignment, that transition experience is sometimes a "mixed-bag" of feelings for various members of the family.

The attached communication game—"Transition Is a Family Affair"—has been designed to help you and your children talk about these feelings in a non-threatening manner. It allows questions to be asked or topics to be discussed at the suggestion of an external source (the game), rather than through the initiative of any single family member. Everyone is on common ground ... each one giving his/her response (parents and children alike).

As you use this game, there are some things worth remembering:

1. It's best if questions are asked in a spontaneous, relaxed setting.
2. Allow children to freely express how they feel without telling them why they shouldn't feel what they're feeling—don't try to "fix it."
3. Be willing to admit your own loneliness, fears, worries, etc.
4. See the upcoming time in your country of origin as a great time to experience and learn new things—be positive.
5. In some situations, your children may need your guidance to help them express their real inner thoughts. [For example: One question reads: "What was the best thing that happened today?" If a child is really feeling bad, maybe he/she will say nothing good happened. That's OK. But of all the bad things that happened, which was the least bad?]
6. Help your kids think (and talk) about the people and things that influence them—talk about clothes, lunch hour, recess, P.E., study hall, lockers or locker room, peers, teachers, other adults, their likes and dislikes.
7. Remember that during times of transition it is especially important to find something each day to praise/celebrate with each child.

We'd love to hear your response to the effectiveness of this "game" as a communication tool for your family.

Praying for a smooth transition,

The staff of ...

Barnabas International &
International CHED (SIL International)

<p>The thing I miss most about where we are going back to (passport country) is ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>What is a funny question a national friend has asked you? (Older kids may want to give some thought ahead of time to things they'd like to know about their passport country before they go home again so they don't ask too many "funny questions.")</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>What is the strangest food you have eaten? Do people in this country think it is strange? What about the people where we are going? Why or why not? Would you eat it again?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>Tell about a person who has influenced your relationship with God. How have they made it different?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>Tell about a travel experience you'll never forget, either in your passport country or this country.</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>One thing parents should never do is ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>Describe your favorite teacher & what it was about the class you liked.</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>One of my favorite memories of celebrating a holiday in my passport country is...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>Complete this statement: To me, living here has been ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>Tell about one of your fondest memories of something we did as a family on the field.</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>One of my favorite memories of celebrating a holiday in this country is ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>What is one of your most prized, tangible possessions? What makes it valuable to you?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>One of the biggest celebrations of my (our) life has been ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>The food/dish that I miss most from my passport country is ... The last time I ate it was in _____ with _____. (place) (whom)</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>One of the things I'm looking forward to most this year is ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>If I were ever a boarding home parent, one thing I would do to make it fun for the kids is ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>If I had my wish, I would ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>Is there something about being here that made you feel uncomfortable at first, but not anymore? Share it.</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>

<p>What is something you'd like to thank your parents for?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>This is your day to make up your own question. Ask something related to who you are because you are a TCK or person in ministry.</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>What will you miss most about being here? What could help with this when we are gone?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>If you brought a non-TCK friend to visit you here, where would you be sure to take him/her? Is there someone special you wish would visit you?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>What helps you the most when you feel lonely or sad because of being separated from friends or family? What could someone else do to help?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>What do you do with friends here?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>When you get back to your passport country and people ask you what it was like here, what will you say?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>One of the feelings I have a hard time expressing is ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>What is a good thing that happened to you today? Could it have happened to you in your passport country?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>The thing I think I will miss most about this country is ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>Tell about an embarrassing situation you've experienced since coming here. How did you get over feeling embarrassed? How do you think you might face situations like that back in your passport country?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>Which skill would you like to develop that you have an opportunity to learn while here, that may be difficult to learn in your passport country?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>What makes you feel more "at home" either in your passport country or here?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>Is there anyone you've met that you'd like to be like? What makes you want to be like them?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>How do you figure out what to do when you don't know how to act? (You may have to give younger children concrete situations they can relate to, like something they remember from when they first came here.)</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>When you get back to your passport country and people ask you where you are from, what will you say? (Do you think that sometimes you will want to answer the question differently?)</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>What would you do to help someone who is sad?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>I hope we never stop doing _____ because ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>

<p>It was really fun when our family went ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>When I feel excited, I ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>What are the things that make you feel happy (or sad, worried, afraid, angry)? Why?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>When I feel angry, I ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>Sometimes I wish I would never have to _____ because ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>Who do you miss the most from your passport country? Write a letter to that person.</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>Who would you like to invite to our house for supper?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>The first thing I would do if I were back in my passport country would be to ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>What is the best thing about being an TCK (for parents—being in ministry)?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>When I feel disappointed, I ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>Right now my friends back in my passport country are probably ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>What cultural differences do you notice between here and your passport country? Are there cultural things you're unsure of? What can you do about those things?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>When I feel lonely, I ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>If you had all the time & money you needed, what would you like to do most? Why?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>What is the hardest thing about being a TCK or someone in ministry?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>
<p>When I feel happy, I ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>Where is "home"? Where do you feel like you belong? What makes you feel that way?</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>	<p>When I feel discouraged, I ...</p> <p>© Barnabas International & SIL International</p>