

SAMPLE FAMILY DEVOTION

- Time:** After supper on Monday night
- Topic:** We want to use words that encourage everyone in our family, not words that make them feel bad.
- Activity:** Build domino rows and watch them fall down.
- Bible Verse:** Ephesians 4:29 (NIV), "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."
- Supplies:** Dominos, small slips of paper, pen, cup

Possible Script

Influencer: **Hey kids! Tonight we are going to do something new. We're going to play a game and then talk about how the game can teach us something from the Bible.**

Kids: **What game?**

Influencer: **Dominos. But in this version, we are going to set up dominos in different shapes.** Show children how to set up dominos close together but not touching. Build circles, lines, figure-eight shapes, etc. Then demonstrate how you can knock down the first domino and create a chain reaction where all the dominos fall. Repeat several times as long as the children are having fun.

Influencer: **This reminds me of a Bible verse.**

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV), "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

This verse tells us our words should build each other up. Imagine that we are all like dominos. When we use kind words toward each other, it is like building these shapes. We make others feel good with our words. When I tell you, "Good job on your homework!" It makes you feel proud. When you thank me for fixing supper, it makes me feel good. When we use unkind words (the Bible calls that "unwholesome talk") it hurts the people in our family. Just like we used our hands to knock down the dominos, our words can make the people in our family feel sad, like they have been knocked down on the inside. The person we hurt with our words is no longer built up.

The Bible tells us to be careful with our words. This week, let's try to build each other up with the words we say. Let's practice right now! In this cup, I have written the names of each member of our family. We'll all pick a name, and I will give you to a minute to think of something nice to say that will build that person up.

At the end of the minute, allow each person to share. Then pray a prayer asking God to help you use your words to build each other up.