**The Virginia Satir Family Series**

**Teaching Family Therapy DVD #1 - Transcript  
The Virginia Satir Global Network www.satirglobal.org**

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**TEACHING FAMILY THERAPY Transcript**

Hello, I'm Virginia Satir. What you are about to see are a series of tapes that were expressly made for educational purposes. There is a studio audience, and as you will see in the tapes, they are very helpful to what's going on. The tapes roughly divide themselves into three parts. The initial part has to do with a family that comes in, a beautiful family, and I deal with that family in all of the other things that I'm doing. So the first segment has to do with the family interview itself. The second segment has to do with something I call "Family Reconstruction" which is a way of going back to the lives of people to see what I call old situations with new eyes. And it is the parents in the family whom I give this experience to. The third segment has to do with finding ones resources and working out a harmonious way of using them. And I give the name to this of the parts party.

What I hope is that you will see these as ways in which you can become more familiar with the beautiful resources that all of us as human beings have. And that you will notice that they can be used for growth in yourself, and for using yourself effectively with other people.  
One thing I would just like to say, I believe we are coming closer to what it means as looking at human beings as miracles. And I hope this is a first step for you to begin to see that that's what you are and all the people that you deal with are too. (This is the end of the introduction).

Now, let's look ahead a little bit. We have three days. How many are going to be here for all three days? Let me see... oh, that's lovely. Anyway, we have three days in which we're putting together a whole variety of components, all of which are essential to our work. Essential. Now I need to share with you what they are, if you haven't thought about them. We've got the technology with all those magnificent people there, manning it and doing all those magnificent things that I know nothing about, to make something that somebody else can find useful. That's for the result later. For now, if it isn't useful for all of us here, then it hasn't been effective at all.

So part of the release of the energy that we have I look for is so we can begin to make connections with each other. So what I'd like you to do is to get off your seats and go find some people you haven't met. Look at them, and if you feel all right about it shake their hand, and if you feel more than all right on a second notice, give them a hug. All kinds of possibilities are there. So I'd like you to do that. So I'm going to start off right here with this lovely one... nice to see you. I've never seen you before, but ... (group follows instructions and introduces themselves to each other).

All right, let's find our home, that is, the new one. See how exciting it is to begin connecting to people, and to see the energy start flowing? You notice that? How many of you had a chance to meet somebody you never met before besides me? Wasn't that groovy? (affirmative responses from audience). Yeah. You notice that there's an energy change in this room? Can you feel it? See, if I had started off.... . . .you know, I could do that. Then you all would sit in your little seats, like that. That's the way we do it in the whole world. That's how come we're so scared about everything.

You know, I have to tell you this. I don't know if it's true. I don't know if anything I tell you is true, except maybe one or two things but I am told that each of us, were we to free the energy we have in our bodies, we would have enough energy to light up a city of a 100,000, just in ourselves. So one of the interesting things for me is and has been for a long time, how come most of us have got our lights out piddling around in the dark and maybe we find somebody out there with a candle, you know and we follow them? And we forget we can turn on our own lights. We're kind of far away from that.  
But I do want to say this. This time, this day, this year in the history of what I know to be in the world, we have a chance we've never had before. We have the greatest technology in the world, for us to make the world a fantastic place. We also have developed such a negative mass of energy to kill us all. We don't even have to have the atom bomb or the nuclear bomb... and we also have the greatest opportunity to make some changes. It has never been that good. How many of you get a little scared sometimes about what's happening right now, besides me? Okay. And how many of you, when you get scared, often feel "I can't do anything about it? I don't feel that way anymore, but I used to. I'd get depressed.  
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We're in for a change. If people had handled technology like we handled people, we would be back without a wheel even. And why can we be so stupid, I'd like to know? We can send people to the moon, we can do the most complicated kind of stuff, and we can't figure out how to work a way so people can evolve and be beautiful. You know what? Three-quarters of the people in the world today have no feeling that tomorrow will bring them anything. How could that happen on a planet that is so full of resources? Ok. Then I ask myself, how can it also happen that we have so much alcoholism, so much hatred between people, so much enemies in families, all this kind of stuff. How could it happen? I think I know a little bit about it. I think that was what began to help me to say, "hey, there's got to be something different in this world. And I, as a therapist, have to do something different."  
So, here you are, and I don't know if you ever thought about yourself. You're perfect beings, you're perfect manifestations of life-force. Your behavior may not reflect that, mine doesn't always either, but that's where we  
are at our core. I don't know how many of you bought, for a long time, that man is born evil, and we have to spend the rest of our lives keeping the evil in tow. I don't believe that for one minute. But anyway, as I told you, what I say has to do with what I've come up with. All right.  
Now this first part is supposed to, if we go by the clock which we can't because it's already gone by, but that's all right... See when I think about my work. Me, putting on my therapist's hat or my educator's hat. What am I trying to do? What is my reason for being in that place? Well, it's to accomplish some kind of change through the medium of me, and whatever it is I know, think, feel, taste or touch, that I can use myself in the interest of someone else to help them grow. That, for me, is my definition of therapy. Okay? All right. So I start out with this idea that we are basic. Everybody has everything they need. They have all the energy, they have all the knowledge, they have everything, but they don't have access to it. And so a change artist, someone who will take responsibility for joining your hands if you ask me, to move toward change. What I keep in mind is I'm not going to give anything. I'm only going to use myself to let you have access to what you have. And so all my work reflects that, my education, and also my work with myself. And I have to say to you that I think I have often been able to lead other people to places that it took me longer to go. How many of you are therapists here, make your living by being change artists? Most of you . Okay.  
Now, I want to mention a little bit, just to kind of make a context straight, or fuller, maybe not straight. And that has to do with something we call...we now call family therapy. Do you know that there was a time when that was considered a fad? I was part of it, and we were all freak shows. I was one of the people, as you know, who worked with families long before many other people did. And I know that it was in the search for finding something better, not only for the people out there, but for me. And I started my career with the people that nobody else wanted... chronic patients in the state hospitals, people I fished out of the gutter in West Madison Street in Chicago, kids that have been banged around from pillar to post... and the people that said, "Nah, they're lost."  
And I found out that isn't true.  
So one of the things I hope that you will notice...if you don't, maybe you can't, maybe it doesn't show anymore... is that I cut my teeth helping people with the people that nobody else wanted. Today a lot of times people will say to me, "Oh, you only work with middle-class, upper-class. They always talk to you." I say, 'Why not? I'm talkable to." But there are certain ways in which we can go with each other that we can shut other people up. I don't know how many of you here have ever had the experience of feeling so mad at somebody that you were treating that they weren't doing what you wanted them to do and you wanted to shake them. How many of you? Come on! Of course. So what are you doing when you do that? I know that feeling. Now it doesn't happen to me anymore, but it used to. What am I doing then? I'm saying, "I know what's good for you and you're not doing it! You know that? And if you were nicer, you'd do it". Then I write in your chart that you're untreatable, that's what I do. That gags me at this point in time, but anyway...  
There's also another side to this. I think life is absolutely a miracle, I think it's sacred, I think that it is a treasure, and I think that we have developed a way of looking at people which is just the opposite. So how do people find their treasurehood, their miraclehood, when we surround ourselves with things that say we're not much good? That's what led me to the central core of what I do, that we need to come to our sense of self-worth. That we need to be able to stand in the mirror in the morning and bow three times...you can do it anytime you want... and say "The world is a better place because I am here." Not that I'm here and doing better than you're doing, but that I, as a being, am full of value. And the first place I start is that I have to value me. How many of you,  
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when you were little kids, and you looked in front of the mirror somebody came along and said, "Don't show off'? How many, let me see. A few of you, but there are many more in the world. How can we develop our sense of self-worth?  
All of our treatment modalities...certainly all of them up to World War II and many still today... base their central part on fixing problems instead of working on self-worth. We're still doing that. And so I don't fix any problems, not at all. But I know that if I can help people with their self-worth, they fix their own problems. They're far more smart about their problems than I am. Have you ever noticed how really you are not so smart about all that great advice you give? It's marvelous for you, but who else wants it. So save it, save it for you. So just to put something into a little context here, I know you know this, but I would like to just have it all clear. You know there was a time in the world in which the way you handled people who "didn't conform", the first treatment was to kill them. We still have it. The next one that came about, if people weren't doing what they were supposed to do we banished them. We still do that. However, it isn't lawful except under very peculiar circumstances. Another thing that we did with people was to punish them, which we still do. These are treatment modalities that are designed to help people. Think about it for a minute...All right. Now then, as I said, that's still around...

However, there came a time when we thought that if we understood people, we might be able to offer them something. Part of understanding was to "be kind" to them and give them the things they didn't have. And then if they got the things they didn't have, then everything would be fine. That's our principle of our public welfare department. And you know what happens. People are, for generations, on public welfare. That doesn't need to be at all. Then we thought maybe we might help somebody. I want to tell you my story that guides me about help. For a long time I felt that the way I helped was to nurse everybody. So I had tits all over me, and they all had faucets with no "close" on them. And there was a sign, there must have been, up here which said "drink me". That made me proper. Okay. Well, after a certain time, I wanted to die when I got home at night. The people were all over my neck and all over and I didn't realize that I was doing it to me, because I would turn myself inside out to buy them clothes, to do this, to do that, to be kind and all the rest. And then I finally went to the wall and I said, "What is help?" And this story, this beautiful story... it's a Zen story about two young kids who grew up in a little village, maybe some of you know it, and they loved each other very much. So when they got grown up one of them was a very good fisherman and became very rich. The other one couldn't make a living, no how. So the rich one loved the other one and the other one loved him, and so every day this poor man would come to his rich friend and the rich friend would give him a fish. He had plenty of them, so he gave him a fish, every day a fish, enough to eat. So after about 20 years of this the rich man said to himself, "I love my friend and I am treating him badly. I'm insulting him, and I must do something else." So the next morning when his friend came he said, "Here, love, is your fish. Here is also a fishing rod, and here is me to teach you how to fish."  
Now that is now my way of helping people, to give you a fishing rod if you need it or help you find one, and teach you how to use it. Now what is that? To give you the feeling in my presence anywhere, that you are worthy and I'm worthy. And I will teach you all I know about that. And so that marks a very different way of working with people. The fix-it, "go fix the problem", which is what so much of what is happening now, and then make that the center, or help people to get to their own resources in which place they fix their own problems. You don't have to worry, I know that. After all these years, I know that. All right. So this is what we had. I just might say that the epitome of this behavior (killing behavior) came in with the Nazis, but that was only out here, because we've been doing it all the time. Anyway, we're learning new kinds of help.  
Now also, the first awareness was we looked at somebody who had a problem, whatever that was, and said, "It's all him or her." So we worked out all kinds of fancy ways, which followed where we came from here, to get that one rid of the problem. Then one day we figured out that nobody lives in a vacuum. And, we developed, around 1899... precursor to all that correction work today...we developed the idea of child guidance. We said, "You know what, Ma has something to do with that kid." And so we developed the theory of “Immaculate Conception.” And so what we got then, we got the mother. And we brought her in because we never put the two together. But ma was the one. I don't know if you remember those days. There were never any fathers seen. "Oh well, they understand." Even today fathers are not part of the emotional life of the family. This is what we need to develop. We have a women's consciousness-raising group and we dearly need one for men to know that they are important and in the emotional life of the family they are absolutely essential. But that has not been.  
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All right. So we went through the child guidance. And then somebody someplace or somewhere said, "You know what? When you've got married couples it would be nice to see them together." That usually came out of theology or someplace like that. It didn't come from the therapies. So we got something called marital counseling, or marital something or other. Okay.

Now I can't tell you that I developed that consciously, but I know that intuitively I knew this was the whole. Now very briefly, because I don't want to take up too much time, I'll tell you how I fell into it. I always knew from the time that I was working on this therapy that there was something wrong with it, something wrong with the way it looked and worked. I started out in private practice at a time in Chicago where it was heavily psychoanalytic, all by physicians. And here I am, a non-medical person, but since I'm working with the people nobody else wants, nobody bothers much with me. And that's, by the way, good. And when they found out it was too late.

So in this situation, I didn't know about this. I only knew about individuals. So here comes a girl, been all the rounds, 28 years old. We have funny labels from time to time. Read in the mental hospitals sometimes. Every ten years they have a new fashion. She was called, "ambulatory schizophrenic". You know what that means? That means you can be crazy and still run around. That's all it means. A lovely girl, 28 years old. And so we begin working and some nice things happen. One day I got a telephone call from her mother threatening to sue me for alienation of affections. That's exactly what she said. Now whatever possessed me that day, I don't know. I heard the threat in her words, "I'm going to sue", and in her plea I heard, "Please, help me, help me". So I said...I responded to the plea. I said, "Come in." See, I wasn't supposed to do that, because in those days it was understood that all family members were enemies, especially parents. They didn't know how to get legislation to  
it, put parents in jail when their kids misbehave, but that's all right. So I invited the lady in, and to my surprise she came and, you know, she didn't have horns. But what I did see was that all the work I had done with her was no longer present in the presence of her mother. And I said to myself, "I'd like to know what's going on here." And when I'm in that spot what I do is just sit back and I just watch, because I know there are things that are going on that I don't see. Well, we finally got that righted.  
Then one day I said to myself, "You know what Virginia? I think that that young lady has a father, maybe (the mother) had a husband. Those aren't always the same, but that's all right. Yes, there was one. And you know what? He was at home, living at home. And you know what? He was sharing the same bed with his wife. Can you imagine? Okay. So I said to these two, "I would like to see him." Here's mother and here's father, (drawing on board), and child, and so they said, "Sure. We'll ask him". So the next time he came in. Well, big surprise. Now everything I saw here fell all apart again. So now I said to myself, "What's going on here?" So I stand back and look and finally we got that all together. And the processes of doing this was the root from this to this, which was the double level. The verbal/affective discrepancy, which is now what we talk about as the basis of human communication, what therapists and others write books about.  
Well now, you see, I had another thought one day. Maybe they tried it more than once. Maybe they have more than one kid. By gosh, there was! And who do you suppose it was? Well, this was a brother, a magnificent, perfect, beautiful, always good...the one with the schleppy sister. So here he was, a brother. She happened to be the second born. Now when he came in it was very clear. He ran the family. We have what is the beginning of...all of you must know... families that are divided along sex lines... boys together, girls together...about the good one and the bad one. And so this ended up most successfully, though later on I discovered they both had mothers and fathers too, and tomorrow we'll probably talk about that.  
Now we have the bare bones of family process. And as I learned about these people, I began applying it to other people. That's how I grew in understanding what family system was all about. And I want to tell you something, to share it with you. I am sure that everyone here understands system as a continuous operating thing. It doesn't start in the morning like with your tooth brushing, or end at night with taking your nightgown off... or on, whichever one you're going to do. So system is a set of essential variables that are essential to each other because they have an implicit end point, and they develop an order and a sequence to make that happen.  
What is that in a family? Pa and ma get together and they make a kid. The kid is little when they're born. I say it's all going to change when we're born grown-up, but that hasn't happened yet. So how do ma and pa put together what they've got in the interest of helping a new being? End point, that the parents need to survive while they're doing this. I think it's more than that. I think they need to be happy. And the kids need to grow up  
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without too much incident. That's what families are all about. That's a goal. And up until relatively recently very few people ever even expected that they could be happy in their families. Do you know that? That still is true. The family gets the worst treatment. Everybody else gets better treatment. Can you imagine that? People you like the most, they still eat on those old cracked dishes, and the other ones get all the fun...Anyway, all right.  
Now, what I see in retrospect was an evolving, as I pointed out before. We had the pieces, and it suddenly could come together. And it did come together in my mind, not that I sat down and did it but because this woman called me up and I began to put pieces (together). And since that time, I now can look at any family and understand its process. Not blame it, but just understand it.  
And it doesn't matter...several of you are having questions and I'm just going to put it in... it doesn't matter whether this one, is showing something right now, of having some menopausal disturbance, something physical...this one is alcoholic, this one is stealing, and this one doesn't do well in school, school problems we call it ...it doesn't matter. Or, if this is a marital difficulty, where they spend our time hatcheting at each other. . . or some kind of aggression between two people. It doesn't really matter because it's all present, it's all present in the same system. And so this is why all those questions you asked me, they're just variations on a theme. That's all. So one of these people could be a physically handicapped kid... that child in a family which has a certain kind of system which I will call closed, will have different kinds of experiences than in a system that's open. It isn't the handicap that is the essential thing.  
So when we get to that point, then we begin to see clearly, that it is the context that is around things which is the important thing. And if we take problems and don't look at them within the context and look at them as an outcome of a low self-esteem which has nothing to do with blame... it's all learned. When you grow up, when your mother says to you in front of your father, "Don't mind him. He doesn't know what he's doing." And then later on when you play that out and your mother says, "You must respect your father"...this goes on all the time. It comes from different places. It has nothing to do with blame, it has to do with our lack of awareness and understanding that every one of us has had something like that in our family, where the parts couldn't come together.  
So what I'm trying to do now is to work on all ways that I know, starting from self-worth as the base, and then help people to develop their energies, to help them to develop a new consciousness about themselves, help them to develop their willingness to make all kinds of change, to experiment. And then, almost like magic, things change. It isn't magic.  
I'll give you just a little thing. Would you come up here? Okay. Your name is?  
**LAURA:** Laura.  
**VIRGINIA:** Laura. Ooh, your hands are nice and warm. Would you bow your head please, and look depressed. Okay. You've got a problem, ok... No, toward me. You're going toward me. You just look very depressed. Okay. So I'm the therapist. So I say "Laura, you look depressed, are you depressed?  
**LAURA:** (She shrugs).  
**VIRGINIA:** How long have you been depressed? Are people in your family depressed like this all the time? **LAURA:** I don't know.  
**VIRGINIA:** Well too bad you're depressed... Now if she doesn't get more depressed after that, I'll eat my shirt. And there are people running around who think they're helpful. OK. Now I want to have that same thing like that that you did. OK. Laura, I notice your head is down, your eyes are looking at the floor and I'm wondering at this moment, how you're feeling?  
**LAURA:** Sad.  
**VIRGINIA:** Sad. Okay. How would you like to feel?  
**LAURA:** Happy.  
**VIRGINIA:** Happy. So let's put our energy to that. What are you feeling right now, you, Laura?  
**LAURA:** Mm... warm.  
**VIRGINIA:** All right. I could see that. Thank you for coming up. That was a surprise to you, wasn't it?  
**LAURA:** It was!  
**VIRGINIA:** I thank you for doing that.  
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**LAURA:** Thank you.  
**VIRGINIA:** You see, what you did now, you set an example for this whole group. Because everybody knows now that if I ask them to come up, it can only end nicely.  
**LAURA:** Good...  
**VIRGINIA**: You did that all. Thank you for that. Okay. So, I'm going to stop now for a minute, and see that comes out of you at this moment in the way of questions, comments, and then we see what else. What does this all sound like to you? What does it feel like in your guts? What does it think like in your head? What does it do in terms of your heart? What else is going on with you? Because, you know, we're living beings and everything is manifesting in some way. So who...?  
**ROSE:** It feels nice down here.  
**VIRGINIA:** It feels nice down there.  
**LOIS:** Hope.  
**VIRGINIA:** Hope... I'm going to write that down. Nothing goes anywhere without hope, does it? Thank you. Say your name...Lois...okay...Yes? Say your name love?  
**MAMIE:** My name is Mamie.  
**VIRGINIA:** Mamie, yes?  
**MAMIE:** I like the way you deal with the here and now, exactly what you experience at the moment.  
**VIRGINIA:** You know what's so nice about what you're saying? Do you realize that's the only time we ever feel, is now? Because anytime we talk about the feeling of yesterday, it's a memory. So what I hear you say is that you like to have people be where they... you really can be. It's now. And isn't it true that all your past now if you're behaving differently, you represent your past because you're behaving differently now. So every moment is a fresh start, and that's not planning. Like people who say to me, "Oh, I could never get up in front of people", and here they are in front of them. I said, Well, are you aware that you're in front of somebody right now?"..."Oh, yes"...'Well, now you can never say you can never be in front of somebody because you already have." Okay, let me hear from a couple of other people...Yes...Julio.  
**JULIO:** I notice that when you dealt with her you didn't say, "You feel depressed", as some of the techniques that are more prevalent nowadays. But you actually described the physical stance of her. Any particular reason for that?  
**VIRGINIA:** Yes, because how does anybody know what the other person is seeing? See, "You're depressed", is a conclusion the observer makes about who he or she looks at. And I know what it's designed for. It's designed to say, "Look love, I'm with you. I know what's going on inside of you." Nobody does anyway, so all you can really describe is what you see. What you see. Then you can say, "When someone looks like that, for me, one of the thoughts I have or feelings I have is that maybe you're feeling bad." I don't use these words anymore, like "depressed". I think those are just concocted words. They don't mean anything to me anymore. They're usually dirty words, and I stay away from as many dirty words as possible. Once upon a time, it meant that I was a professional that I could talk dirty. That means all the psychiatric nomenclature and all this fancy stuff. I just want to melt away in shame when I think about some of the reports I used to write about people. I don't do it anymore, thank God I learned. But I have to forgive myself because it was the best I knew. So if you're doing it, it's the best you know. Yes? Come up here love.  
**LOUISE:** Why?  
**VIRGINIA:** Why? All right, now I'm going to tell you something. It's beautiful. What's your first name?  
**LOUISE:** Louise McGuire.  
**VIRGINIA:** Louise McGuire. A moment ago Louise, you were down there. Something went into your mind that made it possible for you to open your mouth and ask for something. Okay? All right. Now you could be there and I could be up here. That could happen. But when I'm with people, I want to be where I could really be in touch with them, in touch with them so I can feel them and have them feel me. All right. So, I'm going to try a hunch on you, that when you said, "why" to me that you had an idea that this was something that would mean that you'd have to show off or you'd have to do something or I must have some horrible reason inside or something. It was a negative thing, wasn't it?  
**LOUISE:** I thought you were going to do role-playing.  
**VIRGINIA:** Yeah, Okay. All right, Okay. So you see, again, this beautiful young woman does what we all do. Before we even take a risk to do something, we shut it off. But she didn't.  
**LOUISE:** I've read all your books.  
**VIRGINIA:** I don't write about that in my books.  
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**LOUISE:** I know, I read all of them in school.  
**VIRGINIA**: Come on up here now, as close as you can come. What was it that you had in your mind as a question?  
**LOUISE:** What I wanted to ask you was that, you know, when you talk about putting labels on people you think is damaging. What if you work in a system like the mental health system where everything that they require... to get paid you have to put these labels on people. How do you work around it?  
**VIRGINIA:** Do you want to know how I do that?  
**LOUISE:** How? You don't do it.  
**VIRGINIA:** Well, I'll tell you how I do it. I only write descriptions. And I want to tell you something. There are more people that sit down and flip coins for what's the diagnosis.  
**LOUISE:** I know that's true.  
**VIRGINIA:** Have you been sitting in some of these things? "A" says it's like that and "B" says it's like that, and "C" says it's like that.  
**LOUISE:** And none of them are right sometimes.  
**VIRGINIA:** Well.. And then they go into a file... Do you know that people are still writing me 35 years later after I've seen people to ask me for my diagnosis of somebody I saw 35 years ago? Do you know what I write back? I say, "I do good work. They've changed." All right, now what do you do? You see, as long as we continue to buy this stuff we're going to do it. Now you can start slipping in descriptions.  
**LOUISE:** Of people?  
**VIRGINIA:** Yeah. You start slipping in descriptions, and anything can be a reaction.  
**LOUISE:** That's true too... So what do you do, for example, with people who say, "I have to work on people's self- worth and mobilize their resources" and the people basically don't seem to have any?  
**VIRGINIA:** Well that is, my dear, where you have the candle. They don't have a candle yet, it's not lighted, and they all need to see. And if you don't have one, then they don't see anything either. You see, hope is the candle. If I have hope for you my candle is on you. If you don't have it, you can bask in my light, but I'm not going to take you with me all the time so you have to have your own candle. OK. And I will tell you, something like what I'm doing right now, hearing you, being in contact with you, is probably the most important way to help people know, feel, they matter. You can write great papers on self-worth, but it doesn't mean anything.  
**LOUISE:** That's true.  
**VIRGINIA:** Okay. And I think you can do that if you don't get scared, or if you don't have to be right or you have to be professional. Those are the three things that will do you in every time.  
**LOUISE:** Thank you.  
**VIRGINIA:** You're welcome. It is now ten o'clock... No, it's after ten, it's 10:05. So what I'd like to do, we need to have a little stretch I think. Do you agree? Are you beginning to get a little numbish on the bottom? So why don't we do that for about five minutes. And then the next part of this we will see about the lovely family that has come to us so we can take a look.  
By the way, I want to find out something. How many of you now have families? That is, you're parents in process with your kids. Let's see...Okay. Now a lot of you grew up in families, but just for fun, how many of you grew up in families where your father and mother were around until you reached the age of 18? How many of you? Okay. How many of you had the experience of losing a parent before you were let's say four? Two of you. How many of you had the experience of step-parents, in being members of blended families? Okay. Or adopted children. Anybody like that? Okay. Now these are all forms of care to help us grow up, aren't they? How many of you were members of one-parent families? Okay. So there's a lot of good experience in this room about different things.  
Oh, one other thing. How many of you were all the same sex in your sibling relationship? What you and I think about guys. I'm kidding, but that's kind of how it is. So how many of you were only children? How many of you were the last of two? Okay. Babies. How many of you were the middle of three? How many of you were the last of three? The middle of three, that's the bologna in the sandwich. Okay. How many of you were one of four, let's say the last of four? Okay. How many of you were one of five? Six? Seven? Eight? Nine? Anything above nine? There's nobody else here that knows how to cut a piece of steak eleven ways and keep the same piece of steak. All right, never mind.  
What we have here... I'm the oldest, I have twin brothers that came just beyond me, 18 months later. That was the end of me at that time, I grew up at the age of 18 months. My twin brothers were sick and my mother lived on a farm, and my father. That was it, so I grew up at that time. Anyway, you see, we have a world of the world of families.

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