7 STEPS
To Stepfamily Success

Presented by:

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www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com
7 STEPS To Stepfamily Success

Children are Definitely Part of the Package!

A Stepfamily by any other Name:

- The stepfamily is a different kind of family with special ______ ________ and opportunities; special _______________ and stresses. Changing the name helps little; learning how it works is what will make the difference.

7 STEPS To Stepfamily Success:

1. STEP ________________ - to discover a ________________ God who loves, forgives, and provides strength and direction for your journey.
   - Satan’s best line of attack...

   - In God’s eyes:

     - Spiritually marginalized stepfamilies:
       - Social ________________ and isolation.
       - Well-intentioned ________________ leaders.
       - Personal ________________ and guilt over the past.

2. STEP ________________ - your expectations.
   - The myth of instant love.

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• How do you cook a stepfamily?  

• The average stepfamily takes _______ years to integrate.

3. STEP _________________ - the wilderness wanderings.
   • Wilderness Wanderings:

   • Key Stepping Stones:
     ➢ Listening—because until your willing to ______________ one another, you won’t know how to love and honor one another.
     ➢ Perseverance—because only those who ______________ with it will be victorious.  Be determined!
     ➢ Commitment—because there will be times when ______________ is all you have to hold on to.
     ➢ Humor—because if you haven’t learned to ______________ at yourself, you’re taking things too seriously!

4. _________________ STEP - the most common pitfalls stepfamilies face.
   • A stepparent who has too much _______________ care-taking and discipline.
     ➢ Authority is based on relationship.
     ➢ A Prescription for Evolving Parent and Stepparent Roles
A Prescription for Evolving Parent & Stepparent Roles

Length of time required to increase parental authority will vary according to age of child, previous family experiences, relationship with noncustodial parents, child's temperament/personality, parenting style variations, and child's overall stepfamily satisfaction level.

Pitfalls continued...

- Underestimating the losses children experience.

- Adults who out of insecurity, pull on children’s loyalties.

- A fragile marital relationship.

5. ________________ STEP - the marital relationship is critical.
   - Before marriage...

   - After marriage...
     - The challenge of bonding and parent-child relationships.

     - The marriage must be “Priority One”,

     - Balance energy and time with the children.
6. STEP ________________ - with all the other adults making up the parenting coalition.
   - Cooperating with the other household is essential to the psychological health of the children.
   - Children are Dual Citizens.
   - Co-Parenting: Containing the anger and conflict with your ex-spouse in order to cooperate and compromise on issues of the children’s welfare.
   - If spiritual values differ:

7. STEP ________________ into the ‘Promised Land’.
Recommended Resources for Christian Stepfamilies & Stepfamily Ministries

Compiled by Ron L. Deal, President, Successful Stepfamilies

www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com

National Ministry Organizations:

InStep Ministries: www.instepministries.com InStep Ministries is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the community by providing practical, Biblical resources, support and counsel to single, divorced and remarried individuals, their families and the churches who minister to them.
Jeff Parziale & Judi Babcock-Parziale, Directors; 2506 N. Alvernon Tucson, Arizona 85712. Phone: (520)721-0800; Email: info@instepministries.com

Institute for Family Research and Education: www.ifre.org
Dr. Donald Partridge and Jenetha Partridge, Directors;
Email: don_partridge@blendingfamily.com

Mend Workshops: www.mendworkshops.com MEND Workshops is an outreach to stepfamilies, single parents and couples struggling to make their home a sanctuary. Offering consultations, workshops, support groups, retreats, couple's weekends, curriculum, and hands-on training, MEND's heart is to reach into our society and offer support for those who are hurting.
Dottie and Terrill Williams, Directors.
Phone: 888-872-1293

Successful Stepfamilies: www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com
This site provides resources for pre-remarital couples, stepfamilies, and the churches who serve them. Site includes free articles as well as books, curriculum, audio/video resources, and information on live conferences around the country.
Ron L. Deal, President; 1601 James Street; Jonesboro, AR 72401. Phone: 870-932-9254; Email: rdeal@swfamily.org.

Christian Stepfamily Web Sites:

Christian CoParenting: www.christiancoparenting.com

InStep Ministries: www.instepministries.com

Institute for Family Research and Education: www.ifre.org

KidsNCommon: www.kidsncommon.com (a website for divorced parents who want to more effectively organize their lives so they can focus on their children)

Mend Workshops: www.mendworkshops.com

Natalie Nichols Gillespie: www.stepfamilysurvivalguide.com

Stepfamily Services: www.stepfamilyservices.com
Stepfamilies Work: www.stepfamilieswork.com
Successful Stepfamilies: www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com Christian resources and conferences for pre-remarital couples, stepfamilies, and the churches who serve them.
Author and stepfamily expert Ron L. Deal, President.
Two Again Ministries: www.remarriedcouples.com

Other Helpful Web Sites:
Association of Marriage & Family Ministries: www.amfmonline.com (Stepfamily Focus Group)
Family Medallion: www.familymedallion.com (a gift to share with children during remarriage wedding ceremonies)
FamilyLife: www.familylife.com
Focus on the Family: www.family.org
Getting Remarried: www.gettingremarried.com
GrowthTrac: www.growthtrac.com
Opportunities Unlimited: www.cgtaylor.com
Stepfamily Association of America: www.safaamilies.org; phone: 800-735-0329
Stepfamily Services: www.stepfamilyservices.com
Your Stepfamily Online Magazine: www.yourstepfamily.com

** Other links available here.

Books for Christian Stepfamilies & Couples Considering Remarriage:

NOTE: An ** indicates highly recommended resources.


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** Deal, Ron. “7 STEPS To Stepfamily Success” Video Seminar (75 minutes; available in DVD or VHS).


Focus on the Family (2004). *The Blended Marriage.* Colorado Springs: Focus on the Family. A 4-session study based on their small group marriage series. The study provides good discussion questions but unfortunately does not provide the leader with any background study material to help answer the many questions that arise in stepfamily classes. Recommended for advanced stepfamily educators only.


  * Also, Jeff and Judi have a 10-session group study available based on *Looking Before You Leap*. It is called *Second Chances: Preparing for Remarriage in the 21st Century. A Leader’s Guide and Couple’s Workbook* is available. Tucson, AZ: InStep Ministries.

  * Also, Jeff and Judi have a 10-session group study available based on *The Journey*. It is called *How to Succeed as a Stepfamily. A Leader’s Guide and Couple’s Workbook* is available. Tucson, AZ: InStep Ministries.


**Resources for Therapists and Family Life Educators:**


