

Understanding Stepfamily (a.k.a. Blended Family) Dynamics

Seven weeks of vital information on successful stepfamily living. Topics will include; children, ex's, finances, and the complexity of relationship development. This class will provide insights into the stepfamily; clarify areas of adjustment, introduce the skills needed to be successful, pointing out the benefits and difficulties. Discover God's desire for you in a remarriage.

Week #1 - "Apples & Oranges"

First marriages are apples – subsequent marriages are oranges. In this presentation basic fundamental differences between the two will be explored that many people don't think about. The stepfamily forms backwards from the biological family. Without recognizing & preparing for these differences, the stepfamily – and those working with them – can get set up for major problems.

Week #2 - "The Bio-Force Meets the Weakest Link"

The most unpredictable element in stepfamily formation is relationship development. This presentation explores & literally draws out, how individuals bond & relationships develop in the stepfamily. This is also contrasted with the biological family.

Week #3 - "Discipline in the Stepfamily"

The parenting problems presented here are universal to stepfamilies where one or both bring children. Learning the important principles of stepparenting & discipline will enhance the chance for remarriage success & couple satisfaction.

Week #4 - "Money & Stuff"

Every marriage has to handle money & stuff. With a remarriage this is amplified because we've accumulated assets, debts & stuff. Finances are foundational to most problems in the stepfamily and the second reason for re-divorce. Different models of financial management will be presented.

Week #5 - "What About Us?"

In Apples & Oranges the differences between first families and subsequent families and how stepfamilies form backwards were presented. Because the couple relationship also forms backwards, the issues facing the developing remarried couple relationship can be confusing & emotionally charged. Among the concepts presented are "reclaiming the territory" & the "tasks of remarriage."

Week #6 - "Lenses of Communication"

The #1 skill in all relationships is communication – this is essential to effectively negotiate the stepfamily journey. Learn the filters and layers through which we see life ("lenses") that can lock us into our own perception and cause communication collisions. Find out how to expand your awareness, repair the damage and design a dynamic relationship.

Week #7 - "Stages of Stepfamily Development" and "Q&A"

Overview of the researched and predictable stages of development. Understanding where you are in the journey can normalize your experiences and give hope. Time will be set aside to answer your specific questions and concerns.