

GRACE AND LOSS IN BLENDED FAMILIES

OCTOBER 13-14, 2022

Summit On Step families.com

DEAR MINISTRY LEADER,

All you have to do is look around.

Look at how many children and students in your congregation are not in regular attendance because they are at their other home. Look at how many people who have come through your divorce recovery ministry are now getting married with children from previous relationships. Look at how many later-life couples are becoming stepgrandparents (because their adult child married and became a stepparent) - and they don't have any idea how to connect with their new grandchildren. Look at how many blended family couples in your congregation are distressed or divorcing. And look at the faces in your weekend worship service, how many of them grew up in a stepfamily, are dealing with unwanted family transitions, or find themselves confused about relationships? Now look at those in your community who only know family dysfunction and instability. Just look around.

I don't have to make a case for why blended family ministry is now considered a necessary part of the local church—the justification is all around you. But I do want to invite you to stop just looking around and start doing something about it.

The Summit on Stepfamily Ministry is the premiere ministry equipping event in the country to help pastors, elders, and lay couples alike learn about healthy blended family living and the essentials of local ministry. You will network with others, learn fundamental and advanced strategies, and become familiar with a variety of Biblically-based curriculum that can become the backbone to your ministry.

Look around. Now do something about it.

FOR THE KINGDOM,

Ron L. Deal, LMFT, LPC

Director, FamilyLife Blended®

The 2022 Summit on Stepfamily Ministry is a 2-day experience to help equip ministry leaders like you to minister to blended families.



If you want to be a catalyst and effect change in your church and community, come join a growing movement of leaders ministering to stepfamilies.

Whether you are brand new to blended family ministry or you have been doing it for years, this event will encourage and equip you.

Each year this event offers breakouts on a variety of topics as well as an area of emphasis. This year we will talk about grace and loss. Stepfamilies are born of loss. Every person and relationship has a shadow of sadness behind it. Unwanted loss often recalibrates our understanding of God and ourselves, and therefore, reveals our need for grace. Effective stepfamily ministry helps people understand their loss and its impact on their current blended family and invites them to further lean on the grace of God.



BLENDED

in the USA





40%

of married couples with children in the US are stepcouples





of weddings in America today form stepfamilies

113.6 million

Americans have a steprelationship









40% of children are born outside of marriage

60% of these couples already have at least 1child from a previous relationship



TRANSITION

in and out of marriage, divorce, and cohabitation is now

TYPICAL

of family life in the US

42 MILLION

married adults are in a second or subsequent marriage (which is triple the rate from 1960)

SPEAKERS



MYRNA Brown



RON & NAN **Deal**



GAYLA Grace



SCOTT & VANESSA Martindale



ELISA Morgan



DRS. JEFF & JUDI
Parziale



LAUREN Reitsema

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY October 13th

8:30 AM SESSION 1

10:00 AM BREAK

10:30 AM SESSION 2

12:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

1:15 PM BREAKOUTS

2:45 PM BREAK

3:00 PM SESSION 3

4:30 PM END

FRIDAY October 14th

8:30 AM SESSION 4

10:00 AM BREAK

10:30 AM BREAKOUTS

12:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

1:15 PM BREAKOUTS

2:45 PM BREAK

3:15 PM SESSION 5

4:30 PM END

Visit **Summitonstepfamilies.com** for the most up-to-date schedule.

*All times in Mountain Time



"Encourages us to continue boldly on our mission to reach as many blended families as possible with the message of the gospel, hope and redemption."

"We have experienced blended family issues first hand and experienced the layers of hurt and grieving. We have not had a ministry in place to help that but we have had the desire to get something going for a few years. This Summit is confirmation that it is definitely needed and now we have the knowledge and resources to begin!"





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