



## Resource List: Remarriage & Blended Families

The resources listed here align with Focus on the Family's philosophy and mission. Call us at 1-800-A-FAMILY, or visit our online store at [store.focusonthefamily.com](http://store.focusonthefamily.com). (Information is regularly updated, but it's still possible that an item originally available from Focus on the Family is now unavailable.) You might also be interested in content posted on our website at [focusonthefamily.com](http://focusonthefamily.com).

### Included

[Books](#)  
[Broadcasts](#)  
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[Webpages, Q&As, and Resource Lists](#)  
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### Books

**[The 5 Love Languages of Teenagers](#)** by Gary Chapman (2010) • 9780802412843 •

Learn to understand the path your teen is traveling, how to handle their needs for independence and responsibility, and how best to love them during this season.

**[101 Tips for the Smart Stepmom](#)** by Laura Petherbridge (2014) • 9780764212215 •

From one stepmom to another, this book offers helpful takeaways on everything from how to handle feeling like an outsider, to dealing with finances and holidays, to communicating effectively with your husband, and more.

**[Before You Remarry: A Guide to Successful Remarriage](#)** by H. Norman Wright (1999) • 9780736902069 •

With compassionate wisdom and insightful questions, Wright helps you and your future spouse consider whether you're ready to marry and, if so, how you can create a solid marriage.

**[But I'm Not a Wicked Stepmother!](#)** by Kathi Lipp and Carol Boley (2015) • 9781624056338 •

Find practical, *been-there* advice about protecting your relationship with God and your spouse while you learn to blend two families into one.

**[Co-Parenting Works!](#)** by Tammy Daughtry (2011) • 9780310325529 •

Daughtry shares strategies you and your former spouse can implement to help your children thrive—including how to integrate stepparents into your co-parenting team.

**[Dating After Divorce: Preparing for a New Relationship](#)** by David and Lisa Frisbie (2012) • 9780834128828 •

Sharing stories from those who choose to remain single as well as those who remarry, the Frisbies help you consider whether you're ready for a new relationship and, if so, how to move forward.

**[Dating and the Single Parent](#)** by Ron Deal (2012) • 9780764206979 •

Whether you're a single parent currently dating or you're thinking about starting a new relationship, Deal shows you how to navigate the path and consider your children.

**[Growing Through Divorce](#)** by Jim Smoke (2007) • 9780736918152 •

Smoke offers guidelines for facing changes associated with divorce: accepting new roles, responsibilities, and relationships; single parenting; weekend parenting; and step-parenting.

**The Heart of Remarriage** by Gary Smalley and Greg Smalley (2010) • 9780800725860 •

Learn to work through past hurts and prepare for remarriage. The Smalleys discuss the unique roles of husbands and wives in blended families and offer tips for whole-heartedly loving your spouse, children, and stepchildren.

**Helping Children Survive Divorce** by Dr. Archibald Hart (1997) • 9780849939495 •

Hart examines the effects of divorce on each person in the family, especially children. He also offers *do's* and *don'ts* for successfully building a blended family.

**I Do Again** by Cheryl and Jeff Scruggs (2008) • 9781400074457 •

Rediscovering their original love more than seven years after divorcing, the Scruggs share their journey—from an affair, to divorce, to prayerfully seeking redemption and restoration.

**The Re-Marriage Adventure: Preparing for a Lifetime of Love & Happiness** by Dale and Susan Mathis (2012) • 9781604826753 •

Couples entering second marriages want to build a strong foundation—and this easy-to-use guide offers insights and suggestions to help you grow as a couple *and* address second marriage and blended family challenges.

**Restored & Remarried** by Gil and Brenda Stuart (2009) • 9780557108527 •

“Encouragement for Remarried Couples in a Stepfamily”

**Saving Your Second Marriage Before It Starts** by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott (2006) • 9780310346289 •

The Parrotts help you explore and strengthen relationship skills so you and your spouse can build a strong and joyful future.

**Saving Your Second Marriage Before It Starts (Workbook for Men)** • 9780310875598 •

**Saving Your Second Marriage Before It Starts (Workbook for Women)** • 9780310875710 •

**The Smart Stepdad** by Ron Deal (2011) • 9780764206962 •

Deal provides essential guidelines to help stepfathers succeed as dads and husbands. Learn to connect with your spouse's children, keep your marriage strong, and relate in a positive way to your stepchild's biological dad.

**The Smart Stepfamily** by Ron Deal (2014) • 9780764212062 •

With a biblical perspective, Deal helps remarried and soon-to-be-married couples solve everyday puzzles of step-parenting, learn to communicate with former spouses, deal with common pitfalls, and much more.

**The Smart Stepfamily Marriage** by Ron Deal and David Olson (2015) • 9780764212062 •

Deal and Olson write for stepfamilies in all seasons of life—dating or engaged, young or empty-nesters—and show you how to build a lasting remarriage.

**The Smart Stepmom** by Ron Deal and Laura Petherbridge (2009) • 9780764207020 •

Find practical advice about surviving and thriving in your blended family. Learn to be a positive influence on children torn between two moms, how to handle holidays and between-home communication, and more.

**Undone: A Story of Making Peace With an Unexpected Life** by Michele Cushatt (2015) • 9780310339786 •

Cushatt describes her journey through a broken marriage, single parenting, remarriage, blending a family, cancer, and adopting three children—all to point to a sovereign Lord who offers peace to those who seek Him.

**Winning the Heart of Your Stepchild** by Dr. Robert Barnes (1997) • 9780310218043 •

In this hands-on guidebook for those faced with the challenge of blending families, Barnes addresses single-parent dating, adjustment problems in a blended family, disciplining as a team, and more.

**Broadcasts**

**Blending Your Family After the Loss of a Spouse** (Danny and Rayna Oertli) • 9781624714061 •

Danny lost his first wife to cancer, leaving him a single parent to two children. He and Rayna discuss the emotional, spiritual, and relational challenges they faced—and overcame—in becoming a blended family.

**Co-Parenting: Helping Your Child Thrive After Divorce** (Ron Deal, Tammy Daughtry) • 9781624714863 •

Deal and Daughtry bring solid advice and insights into the world of the divorced parent who wants to help their children grow up in a healthy, loving environment—while cooperating as much as possible with the former spouse.

**Dating Advice for the Single Parent** (Ron Deal) • 9781624711916 •

Deal offers singles practical wisdom and encourages them to have patience as they rely on God's wisdom to navigate the challenges of dating while raising children.

**Embracing God in the Midst of Hardship** (Michele Cushatt) • 9781624719479 •

Cushatt shares of being diagnosed with tongue cancer despite never having smoked. She relates an earlier broken marriage, then re-marrying and blending a family. And just as she and her husband were approaching an empty nest, they adopted three children. She describes her struggle to deconstruct false beliefs about God, why He allows suffering, and how she's learning to trust Him in the midst of fear.

**Encouragement for Remarried Couples** (Gil and Brenda Stuart) • 235000009793 •

The Stuarts talk candidly about the pain associated with the loss of a previous marriage and the difficulties of navigating through issues for the kids when mom or dad remarries.

**God's Word on Divorce and Remarriage** (Dr. John MacArthur) • 9781624711190 •

MacArthur discusses the clear scriptural guidelines regarding divorce and remarriage. He explains that God allows divorce for specific reasons, and that there is possibility of remarriage without guilt or stigma.

**Help and Hope for Stepfamilies** (Ron Deal) • 9781624716577 •

Deal describes some of the unique challenges facing stepfamilies. He offers practical advice to stepparents and couples, including being intentional about protecting your marriage while also connecting with your kids.

**Hope and Encouragement for Stepmoms** (Kathi Lipp, Carol Boley) • 9781624718557 •

Lipp and Boley share their stories as stepmothers—about loving their biological children *and* their stepchildren, and about the importance of building trust in the relationship between stepmom and stepchild. They address issues of discipline and forgiveness, and they encourage stepmoms to take things one day at a time.

**Improving Your Marriage As a Blended Family Couple** (Ron Deal) • 9781624719707 •

All marriages benefit from assessing strengths and areas of improvement. This is particularly true for blended families because of the unique situations and stresses they face. Deal talks about fear and distrust, the need for a relaxed attitude about change, and why step-couples need to humbly recognize their own faults instead of criticizing each other.

**The Joys and Struggles of Being a Stepmom** (panel) • 9781624717666 •

Several stepmoms offer insight and encouragement as they address the challenges of being part of a blended family.

**Remarriage: Building a Strong Foundation** (Dr. Gary Smalley, Dr. Greg Smalley) • 9781624714818 •

The Smalleys talk about potential challenges stepfamilies face. They help couples in the remarriage process learn to heal past hurts so they can be filled with God's love—and allow that love to overflow to each other and their families.

**Thriving As a Stepdad** (Ron Deal) • 9781624714375 •

Blended families boil down to two things: competing attachments and becoming a family. Deal offers suggestions for stepdads as they face unique challenges, and he encourages them to be the men God has called them to be.

**Thriving in Your Role As a Stepmom** (Laura Petherbridge, Ron Deal) • 9781624717673 •

Deal and Petherbridge offer insight and advice from their book *The Smart Stepmom*.

**Walking Through Grief With Your Child** (Kathleen Fucci) • 235000011215 •

As the new bride of a widower, Fucci stepped into the overwhelming role of mom to three grieving children. Years later she shares what she learned about the grieving process and ways to help your child deal with loss.

**Curriculum**

**Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts** (Zondervan) • 9780310875734 •

Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott focus on seven time-tested questions to debunk myths, bridge the gender gap, and help you develop skills you'll need for a loving and lasting future together as husband and wife. (The kit includes a 9-session DVD, one copy of the Parrotts' book, a leader's guide, one woman's workbook, and one man's workbook.)

**Focus on the Family  
Webpages, Q&As, and Resource Lists**

**Parenting**

- [focusonthefamily.com/parenting](http://focusonthefamily.com/parenting)  
This area of our website offers articles and resources on various topics, including parenting in blended families.

**Marriage**

- [focusonthefamily.com/marriage](http://focusonthefamily.com/marriage)  
This section of our website houses articles, resources, and referrals for several topics, including remarriage.

**Q&As**

- [focusonthefamily.com/family-q-and-a](http://focusonthefamily.com/family-q-and-a)  
Browse our Q&As for advice and encouragement.

**Resource Lists**

- [focusonthefamily.com/family-q-and-a/resources-and-referrals](http://focusonthefamily.com/family-q-and-a/resources-and-referrals)  
Find recommended resources and referrals listed by topic, including the following:

- Marital Challenges** • RL038 •
- Marital Intimacy** • RL039 •
- Marriage Materials** • RL016 •
- Parenting** • RL017 •

**Referrals**

**Focus on the Family Counseling Consultation Line**

[Focus on the Family](#) offers a [free phone counseling consultation with a licensed counselor](#). They're here to listen and pray with you, as well as provide initial guidance and resources to help you and your family. Phone **1-855-771-HELP (4357)**, Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM (MT) to arrange a call back.

**Focus on the Family's Christian Counselor Network**

Search for licensed Christian counselors in your area: [FocusOnTheFamily.com/FindACounselor](http://FocusOnTheFamily.com/FindACounselor)

**Hope Restored® marriage intensives—a ministry of Focus on the Family**

2175 Sunset Inn Road  
Branson, MO 65616  
866/875-2915

[hoperestored.focusonthefamily.com](http://hoperestored.focusonthefamily.com)

- Our intensive programs are held in a retreat setting and are designed to rebuild and restore marriages experiencing significant hurt.

**Blending a Family**

P.O. Box 1173  
Castle Rock, CO 80104  
225/939-5327

[blendingfamily.com](http://blendingfamily.com)

- This ministry guides remarried couples and their children through challenges of becoming a blended family.

**Cloud-Townsend Resources**

18092 Sky Park South, Suite A  
Irvine, CA 92614  
800/676-4673  
[cloudtownsend.com](http://cloudtownsend.com)

- Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend offer insight and solutions for questions about personal and spiritual growth, marriage, and parenting.

**Co-Parenting International**

[coparentinginternational.com](http://coparentinginternational.com)

- This organization brings hope to divorced and remarried parents—as well as to counselors, coaches, and churches—so they can help children grow up with the opportunity to thrive.

**FamilyLife Blended / Smart Stepfamilies**

FamilyLife  
P.O. Box 7111  
Little Rock, AR 72223  
800/358-6329  
[familylife.com/blended](http://familylife.com/blended)  
[smartstepfamilies.com](http://smartstepfamilies.com)

- Find a variety of resources to support remarried couples and blended families, and to equip churches for outreach.

**The HomeWord Center for Youth and Family**

P.O. Box 1600  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693  
800/397-9725  
[homeword.com](http://homeword.com)

- Jim Burns and Azusa Pacific University partner to provide information related to marriage and parenting, including topics unique to blended families.

**PREPARE/ENRICH**

2660 Arthur Street  
Roseville, MN 55113  
800/331-1661  
[prepare-enrich.com](http://prepare-enrich.com)

- This online relationship inventory and skill-building program is uniquely tailored to each couple, whether dating, engaged, or married.