



November 2016

## *Praises & Prayers*

# Building Smart Stepfamilies

Last week we wrapped up our Smart Stepfamily study held in our home. It has been a great 8 weeks and we have so enjoyed getting to know several amazing stepfamilies.

This study was very different than anything we have done before and it provided many opportunities for us to ask and answer some good questions...

### *You are not a stepfamily, how can you lead a stepfamily class?*

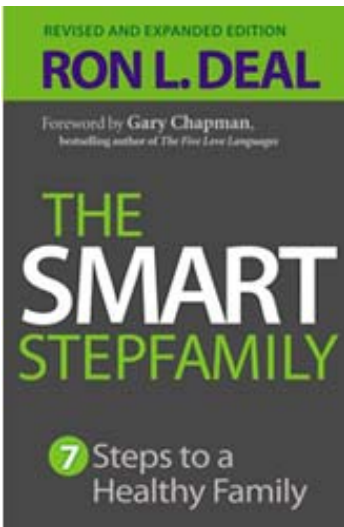
First off, we did not lead or teach the class...we operated more like facilitators. Thankfully, Ron Deal, a Stepfamily expert, does much of the teaching via video. Secondly, we care about marriages, all marriages! We have seen the unique challenges stepfamilies face and we wanted to do something to encourage and help them build a strong, godly, smart stepfamily. One wife said to us,

*“Thank you for caring about my family. Even though you are not a stepfamily, thank you for caring about mine and hosting this class.”*

### *Do stepfamilies really need their own class?*

After the first class, a wife said to us,

*“Thank you for doing this. I am so glad to have a group where I feel like I belong, where I feel like people understand our family.”*



*On conclusion of our study, we asked our participants, “What impact have you seen?”*

*“I have really started to see my husband’s ex-wife as a family member not the enemy.”*

*“This class has helped greatly, just the peace we now have, all our family relationships are improving. We are seeing progress.”*

*“I think the best part of this class is knowing we are not an island. We are not alone in the struggles we face. Knowing that we are not the only ones that deal with parenting struggles, life issues, ex-spouse problems. It is good to have people to talk with, people that understand, people we can get feedback from, people that can encourage us. It is so helpful.”*

*Now we have a question for you... Would you be willing to minister to the stepfamilies in your church and community?*

If so, we would love to talk with you and help you get started. The Smart Stepfamily is a solid biblical resource. Ron Deal does all the teaching, while you get a front row seat to watch God work!

Working hard to build strong godly marriages,

*Nathan & Jennifer*

**Praise:** for a GREAT Smart Stepfamily Bible Study. We are so thankful so many couples were encouraged and helped through this study.

**Pray:** that many couples will attend a Weekend to Remember this fall. Pray that all those that attend will draw closer to the Lord and their spouse.

**Pray:** for the Marriage Ministry team at our church as we lay out our ministry plan for next year. Pray God will lead us and we will do exactly what HE wants us to do.

Will you prayerfully consider giving a financial gift toward our ministry as part of your year-end giving?

[give.cru.org/0630262](http://give.cru.org/0630262)



## Sign Up Today!



### *There are 2 Ways to Save On your Registration*

#### **One: Financial Ministry Partner Certificate**

If you are a financial ministry partner and give regularly to our ministry; please contact us, we have a very special certificate for you. This certificate will allow you to register for the Weekend to Remember for only \$78/couple (regular price is \$300/couple).

If you can't use the certificate yourself, pass it on to someone that can. What a great way to bless someone else's marriage.

#### **Two: Use our Group Name**

Go to [www.familylife.com/weekend](http://www.familylife.com/weekend) click on "Find Your Getaway" and then select the event you want to register for. Enter or group name "FLWalker" when registering and get \$100 off your couple's registration.

St. Louis, Nov 18-20, 2016

Kansas City

Feb 24-26, 2017 OR Mar 10-12, 2017

Branson, Mar 31-April 2, 2017

## *The Weekend To Remember Itinerary*

**Friday evening** is an introduction to the weekend. You will meet the weekend's speakers who will show you exactly how to pursue a marriage that really works through stories of their own breakthroughs and blunders.

5:00-7:00pm Sign In, get your manuals and name tags  
7:00-9:30pm Session—Why Marriages Fail  
Session—Can We Talk? (Communication)

**Saturday** is a day to delve into God's Word and learn time-tested tools to help strengthen your marriage. "Date night" on Saturday offers you and your spouse the opportunity to spend a romantic evening alone.

8:30am-12:30pm Session—Unlocking the Mystery (God's Plan)  
Session—From How to Wow  
Session—What Every Marriage Needs  
12:30-2:00pm Lunch—on your own  
2:00-5:00pm Session—We Fight Too (Handling Conflict)  
Session—Marriage After Dark (Intimacy)  
5:00pm-? DATE NIGHT

**Make Date Night the highlight of your weekend** by spending meaningful time together and reclaiming the love and intimacy that is often obscured through the activities of daily living. Rekindle the fire over a candle-light dinner—reserve a romantic table for two. Surprise your spouse with a special gift that you have tucked away in your suitcase. Or simply hang the "do not disturb" sign outside your door. And if you're attending with friends, make sure to reserve this evening to spend time alone together as a couple.

**Sunday morning** we speak to men and women separately and reconvene to discuss your legacy; then close out the weekend.

9:00-12:15pm Session—Woman to Woman / Man to Man  
Session—Leaving a Legacy

If you attend the St. Louis Weekend To Remember, please don't forget to come by the Technology Booth and say HELLO! We would LOVE to see you!