

Yours, Mine & Ours  
How to lead your Step Family

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Bargas



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McCauley's



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**Topics**

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- The First Step Family
- Define the Step Family
- Role of the Biological Parent
- Break
- Role of the Step Parent
- Understanding Children in a Step Family
- Q & A

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**The First Step Family**

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- Abraham and Sara and Hagar
  - Genesis 12 – 16
- Complexity and Complications
  - Isaac and Ishmael = Israel and Palestine

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**Defining a Step Family**

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- Over 60 possible combinations
  - Two things in common
- Cook your family in a crockpot
  - Allow time and maintain identity of the ingredients

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**Role of the Biological Parent**

- Keep your role and responsibility as parent and co-parent
  - Don't pass the buck
- Bad Cop
  - Discipline and correction are received through love and respect
- Build trust in the step parent
  - Transfer relational goodwill

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**Role of the Biological Parent**

- Coach the step parent
  - Set them up for success
  - *Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble - Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10*
- Put your spouse in the front seat
  - Demonstrate that the marriage is a priority
- Do all you can to maintain peace and unity with the other home
  - *Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone - Romans 12:17-18*

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**Break**

Please be back in 15 minutes

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### Role of the Step Parent

- Understand the child sets the pace of the relationship
  - *"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18*
- Good Cop
  - *"Pursue what makes for peace and mutual understanding." Romans 14:19*
- Reset your Expectations
  - *"Plans fail for a lack of counsel but with many advisers they succeed." Proverbs 15:22*
- Avoid discipline and correction
  - *"Serve one another humbly in love." Galatians 5:13*

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### Understanding Children in the Step Family

- Children did not chose the new family (or divorce)
- Children have many parents, expectations and styles to respond to
- Living in two countries

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### Understanding Children in the Step Family

- Developmental losses
  - Consistent reminders of loss
    - *Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep - Romans 12:15*
- Allow traditions with the parent(s) to continue
  - Flexibility with holidays

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## Understanding Children in the Step Family

- Encourage and support the co-parents home, role and authority
  - Philippians 2:3-4
- Nurture and develop the marriage
  - Provide a model for them to emulate
- Treat their parent(s) with respect always

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## Conclusions

- Communicate! Communicate! Communicate!
  - This includes listening
  - James 1:19
- Step Families can be like a School Zone
- Galatians 6:9
- *So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up*

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## Q & A

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