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“STEPCOUPLES: ME OR THE KIDS?”
“DESIGNING DYNAMIC STEPFAMILIES”
Carri & Gordon Taylor

INTRO

(4 minutes running time)

Carri and Gordon briefly introduce themselves, others in the Series and tell the goal of the project.

- About the Taylors
- The Taylor’s Stepfamily Ministry
- About the Video Series
- About the Study Guide
- Encouragement for Stepfamilies
- How to Use the Video and Study Guide
- Introduction Discussion Questions

LENSES OF COMMUNICATION

(44 minutes running time)

The #1 skill in all relationships is communication – this is particularly true in the intense, committed relationship we call marriage. Carri developed "The Lenses" to show you the filters and layers that can cause communication collisions. You will hear the communication accidents and repairs from other couples as well as how to "cross the street" into another person's world.

- Factors of Personality
 - Male /Female Differences
 - Temperament (Personality) Type
 - Family of Origin
 - Modeling of Parents
 - Birth Order
 - Family Types
 - Multi-generational Transmission Process
 - History and Choices
- Communication Collisions
- Listening
- Mission for Marriage
- Creating a Safe Space
- Three-Step Process in Dealing with Differences

APPLES & ORANGES

(16 minutes running time)

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

- Comparison of Family Types
- Differences
 - Family conceived in
 - Children
 - Finances
 - Living Arrangements
 - Ex-spouse & Extended Family
 - Custody Issues
 - Holidays and Vacations
 - Life Transitions
 - Family Development Cycle
 - Sexual Boundaries
 - Communication & Conflict Resolution

BIO-FORCE MEETS THE WEAKEST LINK

(21 minutes running time)

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

- Three Ways Relationships Bond
 - Biological / Legal / Emotional
 - Build a Diagram of Relationships in the Stepfamily and contrast that with a Biological Family
- Principles that Guide Formation
- Building a Stepfamily System
 - Diagram of Yours, Mine, Ours and Theirs (children)
 - Adding Two Additional Marriages of Ex-Spouses

STEP-DISCIPLINE

(32 minutes running time)

The parenting problems presented here are universal to stepfamilies where one or both bring children. Learning the important principles of stepparenting and discipline will enhance the chance for remarriage success and couple satisfaction. Other couples share their failures and successes in handling discipline.

Triangulation

Pulling someone, something or an activity in the middle of a relationship
Diagram triangulation of relationships in the stepfamily

Discipline

Bio-Parent vs. Invested Parent

Parenting Demonstrated and contrasted with a Biological Family

First Marriage

United we stand side by side

Subsequent Marriage

United we stand front & back

Bio in front

Step supports from the rear

MONEY & STUFF

(36 minutes running time)

Every marriage has to handle money and stuff. With a remarriage this is amplified because we've accumulated assets, debts and stuff. Different models of financial management – along with the struggles and victories of other couples – are presented.

Tangibles

Assets and Debts

Possessions

Mine/ Yours/ Ours

Intangibles

Values

Control

Styles

Trust

Taylor's Personal Story

Moving from "Yours" and "Mine" to "Ours"

WHAT ABOUT US?

(17 minutes running time)

In Apples and 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 and emotionally charged. Among the concepts presented are "reclaiming the territory" and the "tasks of remarriage."

- Expectations
- Primary and Foundational
 - Definitions
 - Couple and Kids
- Recognition Factor
 - I Don't Want to Tell
 - Loss and Conflict
 - Shame and Guilt
 - Second-class Citizens
 - *I Want to be Normal*
 - They Don't Want to Know
 - *We look the same as before*
 - Divorce is the "unpardonable" sin
 - No second chances
 - Threatening reminder of marital pain

- Task of Remarriage
 - Reclaim the Territory
 - Reestablish trust in marriage
 - Reduce the viability of divorce

STAGES OF STEPFAMILY WAR Pt 1

(45 minutes running time)

Many remarried couples are surprised to find the stepfamily jungle a confusing and sometimes dangerous place to hang out. How to survive (by identifying the emotional landmines) and win (by dealing with them productively) is presented. This is filled with the life experiences of stepcouples and stepkids as they relate their travels through "World Peace," "Diplomatic Breakdown," and "Battle Engagement" of the development cycle.

- Four Landmines
 - Unhealed Wounds
 - Uninformed Adults
 - Idealistic Expectations
 - *We're an Exception*
- Stages
 - World Peace
 - Wedding Pictures and Stories
 - Diplomatic Breakdown
 - Children's Response to Divorce
 - Battle Engagement
 - The Refugees / The Children
 - The National Resources / Money and Stuff
 - The Ex-allies / Ex-spouses
 - Healing War Wounds

STAGES OF STEPFAMILY WAR Pt 2

(49 minutes running time)

The drama continues as the principles are outlined and illustrated by stepcouples and stepkids sharing their continuing journey through "Infrastructure Rebuilding" and land in the "Post War Era." "Stages..." is a must-see.

- Stages, cont.
 - Infrastructure Rebuilding
 - Holidays
 - Stepfamily Sculpture
 - Reforming With a "Theirs"
 - Carri and Rebecca's Story
 - Post War Era
 - Stepfamily Weddings
 - Re-engage With a New World View

CONCLUSION

SUPPORT FOR GROUP LEADERS

THE TAYLORS