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As for me and
my house,
we will serve
the LORD.
Joshua 24:15b



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Why Stepfamily ministry?

Meet Steve & Jan Mathews

Larry and I met with Steve and Jan on our way home from visiting family. Their excitement to help blended families is contagious!

Steve and Jan are on the frontline of stepfamily ministry. Jan says, "If I had not received this material, I would have been the bitter stepmom."

Having lived the impact of greater understanding, Steve and Jan will jump on a Zoom call and help a couple ready to quit. An hour on Zoom can give a couple hope.

Couples have asked them for premarital counseling, their blessing on their engagement, and even to officiate their wedding! Understanding what their new family will be like has greatly improved relationships with their kids.

The Mathews are overwhelmed with couples asking for help, and they are grateful to offer it because they know the difference blended family ministry can make.



"Ron Deal is a foremost authority on blended families, and he has written an indispensable manual for engaged couples who want to successfully blend their two families."



—Jim Daly, president,
Focus on the Family



BETHANYHOUSE

Ron Deal has written a new book, "Preparing to Blend". It's for engaged couples who will be blending families and it's for those who counsel couples preparing to become stepfamilies.

Until now, if couples who are planning to blend families seek **pre-marital counseling**, they will get the same counsel that first marriage families get. It just doesn't prepare them for the unique challenges they will face as a stepfamily.

This book will be released mid-September and it has been **fun to learn the process of preparing to release a new book!** From gathering information for a new webpage, to managing the Launch Team, it's been a fun process to learn what goes on behind the scenes.

If someone you love is preparing to blend, they will really appreciate this book!

What have we been doing?



We met my sister, her girls, and my mom at my cousin's in Ohio. We spent the weekend on the lake being treated like royalty before we took Mom home to Wisconsin and Ann and her girls went back to Maryland.

The best part of our trip was seeing family. Mom and I spent an afternoon with Aunt Dolly. Since Mom had been in Maryland for a month with my sister, we showed pictures and Mom shared all she had done. Mom is 90 and Aunt Dolly is 92!



Larry bounced back and forth between my mom's in Wisconsin and his parents in Minnesota. He was a great help getting things done for Mom!

You don't see this much anymore! Larry ordered pizza for supper the old-fashioned way at his parents'.

We stopped in Kansas to visit Danny and then it was really good to get home after being gone for 3-1/2 weeks!



One home at a time,
Larry and Lynn

The paint was surely dry so Larry gave me the go-ahead to unpack my books. It was so good to find books from my childhood, books my kids enjoyed, books from different times in life, and more. There will be more books to be found, but so nice that these have a home!

Take off the gloves and resolve marital conflict like a champ.



Conflict resolution is no easy task—especially when the person you're fighting with is also your spouse. Ever find yourself in the middle of what feels like round three of a verbal match with your love and zero clue how you got there?

We feel your pain. Literally. Fighting with our spouses hurts.

But how do we fight fair so we're fighting for and not against our marriage?

In our FREE e-book, *Fighting Fair*, we share:

- What to do when you keep having the same fight ... again and again.
- Six ways to respond to your next argument.
- What to say and not to say in those tense marital moments.
- Finding the path to harmony in a blended family.
- A seven-day challenge for healthier conflict in your marriage.
- So much more.

We know you're ready to step in the ring to fight fair. So get your FREE copy now!

Familylife.com/fighting-fair

Prayer Requests...

- Pray that God would bless us with wisdom and understanding as we are both learning new things as we serve in ministry.
- Pray for marriages and families that need to know Who satisfies.