

FIREPROOF: The Modern Family
Running the Bases of a Blended Family
Guest Speaker - Dr. Robbie Goss

Blended Family Statistics:

- 40% of all marriages are remarriages for one of the two parties.
- 50+% of the population will spend some time in a blended family.
- One out of six children under 18 is a stepchild.
- 60% of remarriages fail.

I. FIRST BASE – Recognize the Reality of Remarriage.

- A. It take 24 months to get over the death of a spouse or a divorce.
- B. The price of divorce is always higher than the cost of working out your marriage.
- C. Wait on the Lord. (24 months minimum)

“Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

- D. Fight against focusing on loneliness.
- E. Take a year to scout the potential blended family team.

II. SECOND BASE – Connecting with Kids

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4

A. Four “Do Not’s”

1. Do not use your children as bats or scouts with your ex-spouse.
2. Do not keep the ball of guilt in your glove.
3. Do not downplay discipline.

“Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!” Hebrews 12:9

4. Do not tear down tradition.

B. Know what “stage” they are in.

1. ‘Field of Dreams’ Stage happens at remarriage because it ruins the dream.
2. The ‘Whatever’ Stage happens when the step-parent begins to manage the family.
3. The ‘We’re Cool’ Stage is when a cautious friendship develops with the step-parent.

4. The 'High Five' Stage is when the blended child has accepted the blended parent as a family team member.

III. THIRD BASE – Keeping Your Eyes on the Coach.

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2

- A. His Life of Love.
- B. His Death for Me.
- C. His forgiveness of Sin.
- D. His invitation to come to Him.
- E. His encouragement to go for home.

IV. HOME RUN

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:23-25

- A. Follow Christ.
- B. Live by His playbook.
- C. Make church involvement a priority.
- D. Challenge your ex-spouse to keep the family in church.

Resources: SuccessfulStepfamilies.com
GettingRemarried.com
YourStepfamily.com