



National Stepfamily  
Resource Center

MINISTERING TO  
STEPFAMILIES:  
BREAKING THE CYCLE OF  
DIVORCE



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# MUSICAL HOMES IN THE US

**100 million Americans have a steprelationship currently**

**At some point 175 million will**

**16% of everyone born after 1970 will marry, divorce, remarry, & redivorce.**

Spiritual development?

- Complications to passing faith



# STEPFAMILY MINISTRY

Stepfamily ministry is a must for the 21<sup>st</sup> century church

Why? Because we must break the cycle.

- One way to prevent divorce in the next generation is to prevent redivorce in this generation.



## A Key Question:

- How do we conceptualize remarriage & stepfamily ministry when it seems juxtaposed to being against divorce?



# BARRIERS TO RESOLVE

Stepfamilies are spiritually marginalized.

- Spiritual shame & guilt
- Socially shunned or spiritually judged
- Strong feelings of unworthiness
- Subtle messages that separate

Theological Struggles with the Marriage & Divorce issue.



# REDEMPTIVE STEPFAMILY MINISTRY

## Key Components:

1. Acknowledge / Welcome & Build a Bridge
2. Educate
3. Create Connections



# ACKNOWLEDGE STEPFAMILIES

Raise staff awareness

Communicate a public and personal welcome



# EDUCATE

Get educated yourself

Teaching settings can vary

Side-bars

Mentoring

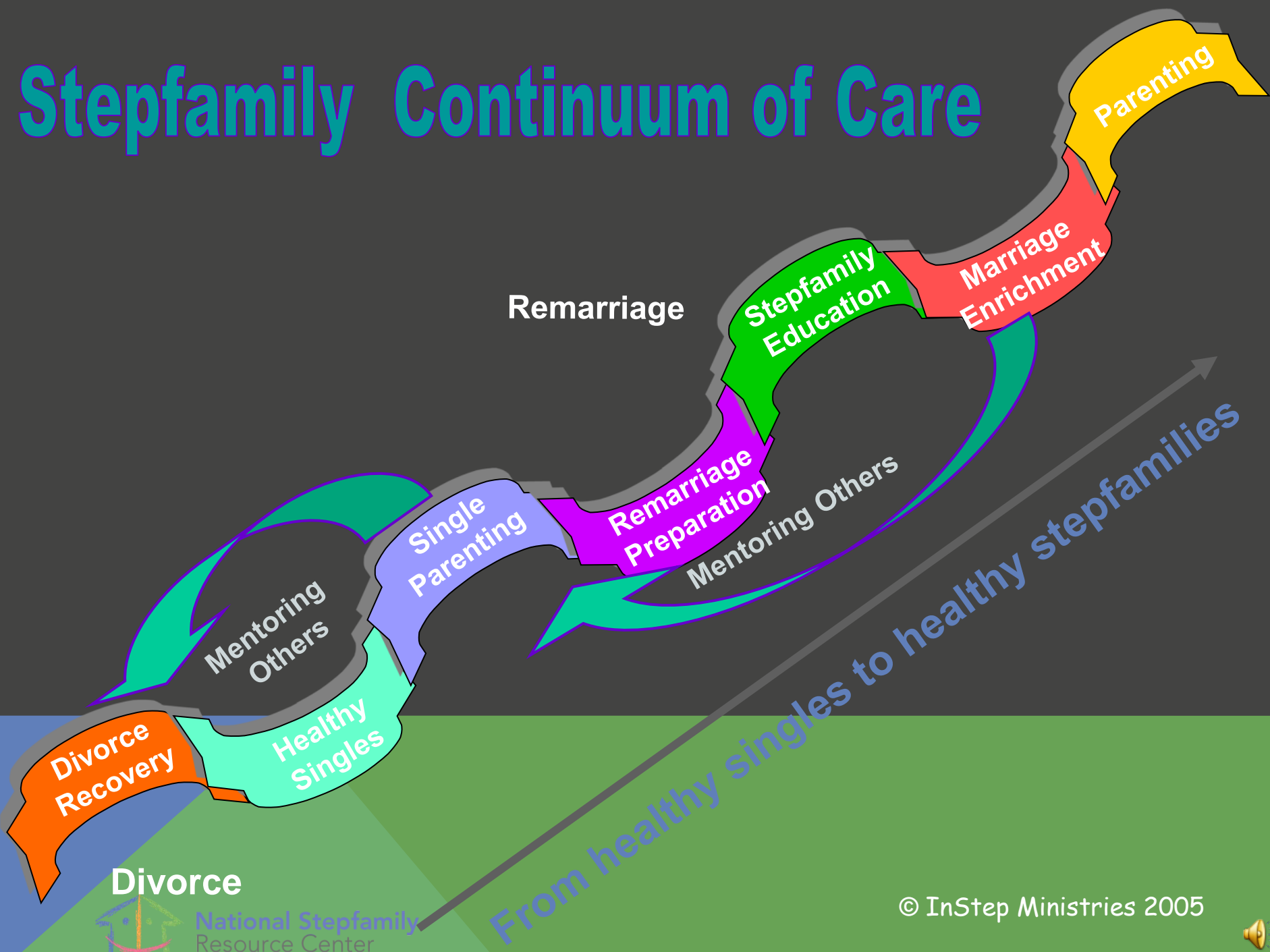
Pre-stepfamily counseling

Therapy referrals / Intensives





# Stepfamily Continuum of Care



Remarriage

Parenting

Stepfamily Education

Marriage Enrichment

Remarriage Preparation

Mentoring Others

Single Parenting

Mentoring Others

Healthy Singles

Divorce Recovery

Divorce

From healthy singles to healthy stepfamilies



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# GET THEM CONNECTED

A couple small group is helpful

Two observations:

- Tough to reach
- Quick to bond



# Ministries:

- [www.instepministries.com](http://www.instepministries.com)
- [www.RestoredandRemarried.com](http://www.RestoredandRemarried.com)
- [www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com](http://www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com)
- [www.AMFMonline.com](http://www.AMFMonline.com)

# Resources:



The Smart Stepfamily DVD Set includes a box set, two DVD discs, and a book titled "The Smart Stepfamily: Seven Steps to a Healthy Family" by Ron L. Deal. A quote from Dennis Rainey is visible: "The best book available for stepfamilies." -Dennis Rainey. A badge indicates a "FREE Downloadable Participant & Leader Study Guide" with a PDF icon and Adobe logo.

**The Smart Stepfamily DVD Set**

- Small Group Resource
- Includes one copy of *The Smart Stepfamily*

