

Dear Local Leaders,

The Joyful Stepmom ministry started as a small Facebook group of Christian stepmoms. God has blessed and grown us to be a ministry of prayer, online devotions and now community groups! I am in awe and humbled by how God is moving through stepfamily ministry. He is the hope and light for our families!

The summer of 2015, stepmoms from our Facebook group began hosting dinners and meeting for coffee. Local Chapters was born from this desire to gather with those we have connected with online. From this place of two or three, we have reached out to our neighbors and churches to find other stepmoms around us.

If you are hesitant to reach out to stepmoms locally, let me tell you about my dearest friend Gina. We met just as I began my stepmom journey. We get together over coffee to talk about life and of course our families. When I talk about my stepson, the latest text or my sadness at every other weekend visits...she gets it. I don't have to explain anything, she already knows. And she prays for me. My sisters, to have another stepmom in your life who just "gets it" and will pray you through it is a game changer.

It is such a joy to hear that stepmoms in our tight knit community are reaching out locally. When a stepmom says, "Hey! I'd like to start a group in my local coffee shop! Or with my church!" I have to tell you, my heart just does a flip! It is incredible to watch how God is working in the lives of stepmoms and how He uses each of us in His kingdom.

If you feel God is calling you to local ministry, read on! And let's chat soon!

With Joy,

Emily Jordan

## The Details

We have an amazing online community of Christian stepmoms at The Joyful Stepmom Facebook Group. It is a joy to hear about women reaching out locally to meet in person! If you are interested in starting a group in your area, please fill out the Contact Form on our website.

To be listed as a Local Chapter of The Joyful Stepmom, leaders go through a short interview process with Emily, founder of the ministry. The Joyful Stepmom has become a beloved community with many stepmoms passionate about our ministry. We want to make sure that same love and integrity carries through to our Local Chapters.

By leading a Local Chapter of The Joyful Stepmom, we ask that you:

1. You are a member of The Joyful Stepmom Facebook Group, so we can stay connected and know you are aware of our ministry and standards.
2. The core of our ministry is our faith in Jesus Christ. We ask that you share that belief in Our Savior.
3. That your group will uphold our ministry standards. Namely, no bashing; this is not to be a dump session.

## The Set Up

Approved groups are given further resources and a Leadership Guide. To answer a few questions about details for those interested in leadership:

Where do we meet?

We suggest a coffee shop or restaurant. Some place you can all gather for a couple hours. You just need a place for women to gather and laugh! We have some Joyful Stepmom groups supported by churches, which is such a blessing! Work with your church on an available space and time. Further church resources are available on the website.

What are we supposed to do?

The Joyful Stepmom is a place for Christian stepmoms. We encourage you to pray together. We'd love to hear that you are reading the Bible! You can begin your time together with a short devotional or participate in more in-depth Bible Studies. We also supply a list of recommend books specific to stepmoms. Beyond that this is a time of community and fellowship! Pray, laugh, get to know other Christian stepmoms! We have a wide range of groups meeting. One group will be doing a study together. Another will be meeting for coffee fellowship. Do what works for your community. We just encourage you to take advantage of being in the company of other Christian women- Christian STEPMOMS!

How often should we meet?

Consistency is your goal. But how often you meet will depend on distance, family, work schedules. Talk to your group and find out what works best. We have groups meeting monthly and twice a month at this time.

I'm in! How do I get started?

Great to hear! Please fill out the Contact Form at [thejoyfulstepmom.com](http://thejoyfulstepmom.com). Let me know who you are and where you are located. I'll be in touch!

I'm a church and would like more information

We love the local church! Churches with a stepfamily ministry can be listed on The Joyful Stepmom! If you are interested in hosting a Local Chapter or have been contacted by a Local Leader and would like more information, see the "Church" tab at [thejoyfulstepmom.com](http://thejoyfulstepmom.com). Feel free to contact Emily via our Contact Form.

Group Mission Statement:

1 Thessalonians 1:4 For we know, sisters, loved by God, that He has chosen you.

I believe God calls us to the role of Stepmom, that He does not make a mistake when choosing us for blended family life. And this place allows us to walk together so that no stepmom need carry her burdens alone.

The intentions of this ministry are to serve as a place, a common ground, where women of Faith can come and be supported and encouraged.