

The Joyful Stepmom Local Chapters – Meeting Virtually Hosting your chapters from a distance

Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time,
and always start with the person nearest you. – Mother Theresa

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us all to adjust the way we engage socially. The Joyful Stepmom has seen an increase in women seeking support, particularly individual mentorship. We want to make those opportunities available for stepmoms – whether socially or physically distant.

I wanted to prepare a resource for virtual connection. As an online ministry, many of our members are forging friendships across the miles. This document is simply meant a little cheat sheet to help a mentor or leader start or maintain these virtual connections.

During a season where we are all stretched a bit further, care and compassion for another stepmom is so appreciated. Touch base with each other. Anything from a simple message to a more in-depth conversation all have deep value.

Groups

We had some strong Local Chapters going before COVID-19. You can keep that momentum with video chats and even just simple text messages checking in.

Value of One on One

The stepmoms who reach out for local chapters are looking for connection. They want friendship, something deeper than a post with comments. So many of the names that come across for a request are unknown to me. They aren't active in the online group, or they are new to The Joyful Stepmom.

I share that to say – it's ok if the relationship falters. This is a fragile connection. It's ok if there isn't a group! Where two or more are gathered...Reach out and start with just an introduction. Make a connection online. If you get the chance to meet for coffee face to face, that's wonderful.

So many of us do not have a stepmom friend or even know a stepmom in real life! Making personal connection with someone is highly valuable. Don't underestimate the one-on-one mentoring and check in.

Suggested Platforms for Video Calls

Zoom

FaceTime

Facebook Messenger Video Call

Tech Questions

How to use Zoom for the technology challenged yourteenmag.com/technology/how-to-use-zoom

Facebook Video Calls with a group [howtogeek.com/671864/how-to-make-video-calls-with-facebook-messenger/](https://www.howtogeek.com/671864/how-to-make-video-calls-with-facebook-messenger/)

What are we supposed to talk about?

Hosting a virtual game night [womensministrytoolbox.com/how-to-host-a-virtual-game-night/](https://www.womensministrytoolbox.com/how-to-host-a-virtual-game-night/)

Isolation Icebreaker Questions [womensministrytoolbox.com/isolation-icebreaker-questions/](https://www.womensministrytoolbox.com/isolation-icebreaker-questions/)

Meet on a regular basis and work through a book together

Finding it hard to work through a chapter book? Look at 101 tips for the Smart Stepmom by Laura Petherbridge or check out IF:Table for monthly discussion topics from the IF:Gathering

Prayer or Jabez

My church encouraged us to pray this in 2020 and I would like to encourage you to pray these words for your ministry. You'll notice the words "Expand my territory." I encourage to give the meaning of that God. Let's allow God to show up and show off in The Joyful Stepmom.

*Oh, that you would bless me indeed
and enlarge my territory
that your hand would be with me
and that you would keep me from evil
that I may not cause pain.
1 Chronicles 4:10*

Further Resources

I have found wonderful leadership and Bible Study resources on [Lifeway](#) and [IF:Gathering](#)