



Optional Readings: Acknowledgements

Stepchild Ceremony

Stepchild Ceremony: Opening

_____ and _____, please turn and face your guests. Often marriage is viewed as the union of two individuals. In reality, however, marriage is much more. As we celebrate the love that brings _____ and _____ together, so, too we acknowledge the merging of families taking place today.

As part of this family, we recognize _____ and the important role _____ play in this marriage. _____, please come up and stand in front of _____ & _____.

Gift with the following reading - optional:

And so we come to the presentation of the Family Token. _____ and _____, please give _____ gift. May it/they serve as a reminder of the greater love that makes you family today and always.

Stepchild Ceremony: Reading Options (choose 1)

- **Vow #1**
Repeated together after the Officiant

Together, _____ and _____, please repeat after me. In giving you this/these tokens, we pledge to you _____ our continuing love Our never ending support and faithful devotion. Please seal it with a hug.

- **Vow #2**
Read out loud by each new Step Parent(s)

I was not there when you were born, when you first crawled or when you took your first steps. But I promise from this day forward, I will never miss another first of anything that happens in your life. I am not here to replace anyone. I will be fair & honest with you always. I promise to support you and to protect you. I will cherish the times I spend with you. I am grateful you are willing to share your (Mom/Dad) with me. You have touched my heart in a way you cannot understand. On this day that I give your (mother/father) my heart, I give my heart to you.

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Stepchild Ceremony Part 2, continued

- **Officiant's Reading (no Vow)**

Read by the Officiant

The author Hodding Carter once wrote: "There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings." We give our children roots, a solid foundation, so when the world gets big and scary, they will always have a safe place to feel secure. Our roots tell us where we came from and what we are made of. Our roots tell us that we are a part of something bigger than ourselves.

When we give a child wings, we allow them to be who they really are, to be independent and to grow. We give them the opportunity to succeed, or to even fail if necessary, and to learn from their own experiences.

Today we are celebrating the union of _____ and _____, but we also honor the new family unit created here. It is the intention of _____ & _____ to provide roots and wings to these children so that they are firmly grounded in love and free to be themselves.

Stepchild Ceremony: Closing

Everyone please join hands. Let's bow our heads in prayer. Dear Father, You have made us in your own image that, together, we may live as members of one Family. As you surround us with never-ending love, strengthen us that we, too, might *reflect* your love, becoming ever supportive of one another in times of need. Forgiving and Patient with each other. We give thanks, Dear Lord, for the relationship created here today. May we ever remember and respect the sanctity of your gift of love to us. Amen

A family is a circle of strength & love. May every joy shared add love to the circle. And may every challenge faced together make the circle even stronger. _____, _____, _____, may you go forth now bound together by the Love of God. Go forth with Hope & Joy & a Heart Full of dreams, knowing that God is always with you. Children, you may return to your places.

Continued...

Optional Readings: Acknowledgements, page three

In Remembrance of Departed Loved Ones:

To be read at the Beginning of the ceremony, after the Welcome _____ & _____ would like to ask all of you to join them in remembrance of (name of the special loved ones) who are with us In Spirit this evening.

Acknowledgement of Mothers (You provide a gift or flower):

After the bride has arrived and the guests are welcomed, the groom is invited to give a flower or a gift to his future mother in law and the bride does the same to her future mother in law. "This gift signifies their heartfelt thanks for welcoming them into your family. They've asked me to tell you they look forward to a future of many happy memories to share with you."

Acknowledgement of the Couple's Children:

Names of the couple's children: _____ please step forward, face your parents & join hands. One of the great blessings of marriage is the joy & responsibility of raising a family. _____ and _____ have been blessed to be the parent of _____. As _____ & _____ share their commitment before us all - to be loving & caring parents to _____, they recognize with gratefulness - the happiness & fulfillment that _____ has brought to their marriage & to their family life. May you have happy & fond memories of your years together. Please seal it with a hug.

Baby Blessing:

Baby _____ May all the blessing of our Lord touch you today. May He send His little angels to protect you on your way. Such a wee little one, sent from above. Someone so precious to cherish and love...May sunshine and moonbeams dance over you head...When you quietly slumber in your bed. May good luck be with you wherever you go. And the blessings for you, your Father & your Mother outnumber the Sea grasses & palm trees that grow.