



Optional Readings: Interactive

These can be read by the officiant or by a guest.

Blessing for a Marriage

May your Marriage bring you all the excitement a marriage should bring
and May life grant you also patience, tolerance and understanding.
May you always need one another-not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness
May you need one another, but not out of weakness.
May you want one another, but not out of loneliness.
May you invite one another, but never insist.
May you embrace one another, but not overwhelm.
May you succeed in all important ways with one another, and not fail in the smaller ways.
May you look for things to praise and often say , "I love you."

If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you have the sense enough to take the first step back.

May you enter into the mystery which is the awareness of one another's presence- both physical and spiritual, obvious when you are side by side, but still there when you are in separate rooms or even in distant cities.

May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy.

May you have love, and may you find it loving one another.

Butterfly Release (*You provide the butterflies*)

As Native American legend has it, when you whisper a wish to a butterfly, let him go and he will try to make the wish you shared come true. He'll tell no one. (Not even you.) He'll take your wish into the sky And make it known to him on high. It will be granted once the Great Spirit knows! (at least that's how the story goes). So now let's join then in the fun! The Bride, the Groom and Everyone – As the butterflies are released, let's wish them happiness and peace.

Family Prayer

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

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How is a Good Marriage Created

1. It is never being too old to hold hands.
2. It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day.
3. It is at no time taking the other for granted.
4. It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives
5. It is standing together facing life.
6. It is doing things for each other not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice; but in the spirit of joy.
7. It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude
8. It is not looking for perfection in each other.
9. It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding, and a sense of humor.
10. It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.
11. It is giving each other an atmosphere in which to grow.
12. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.
13. It is establishing a relationship in which independence is equal, dependence is mutual, and obligation is reciprocal.
14. It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner

Irish Blessing

May your mornings bring joy and your evenings bring peace.

May your troubles grow few as your blessings increase.

May the saddest day of your future

Be no worse than the happiest day of your past.

May your hand be forever clasped in friendship

And your hearts joined forever in love.

May God's blessings rest upon you

And fill all your coming days.

Shell or Stone Blessing Note: (*You provide the shells or stones*)

(Read by Officiant. You purchase or collect the shells stones or ask guests to bring one from each of their hometowns. If you will be passing them out, it's a good idea to have them in a nice basket. You will also need to purchase a keepsake container for them to be displayed in your home).

"At this time, I would like to ask _____ & _____ to pass out shells for each of you. Please take one. As you hold onto your shell during our ceremony, please put your Love and a Blessing for _____ and _____ into it. We will collect them from you later." Before the closing of the ceremony: "_____ & _____ will collect the shells now. Thank you for sharing your love this way. _____ & _____ will display these in a place of honor in their home. These keepsakes will remind them of each of you. Your love. And the Celebration we all shared today."

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Unity Sand Blessing_ Usually read by the Officiant (recommended)

With this, you may purchase a small heart shaped container with a lid or cork (\$10).

You pour sand from the beach via conchs. You may also purchase your own kit & rent a pedestal from us (\$20).

"As you both blend sand into this container, let's dedicate the shared experience to your two lives that are now uniting and blending to form and fill a new life. – as we share the Unity Sand Blessing with you."

May every blessing and grace be yours.

May your love grow stronger and deeper with each passing year.

May joy and delight fill your home.

May daily problems not trouble you too much

Nor the desire for earthy possessions dominate your lives.

May you have true friends to stay by you

in joy and in sorrow.

With wise and generous hearts,

May you help all who come to you in need of nurturing and comfort.

And may you reach a ripe old age together,

Content for having lived a life of goodness and worth."

What is a Beautiful Marriage

1. It is sharing and caring.
2. Giving and Forgiving.
3. Loving and being Loved.
4. Walking Hand in Hand.
5. Talking Heart to Heart.
6. Seeing through Each Other's Eyes
7. Laughing Together.
8. Weeping Together.
9. And Always Trusting and Believing.
10. And Thanking God for Each Other
11. For Love that is Shared is a Beautiful Thing.
12. It Enriches the Soul.
13. And Makes the Heart Sing.