

Wedding Readings

You will need two of your choice for the service. Some couples choose a poem or prose that means something special to them.

Each couple must also choose a reading from the Bible.

Readings usually remind us of love, commitment and the best foundations for living. Below are some readings that are suitable for a wedding-

Ask yourself the following questions when you are choosing them:

- a. Which reading makes most sense to us?
- b. Which words or phrases do we particularly like?
- c. Are there parts of the reading we don't understand and we want to find out about?
- d. Which of the readings best reflects what we hope for in marriage?

Examples of poems and prose:

An Irish Wedding Blessing

You are the star of each night,

You are the brightness of every morning,

You are the story of each guest,

You are the report of every land

No evil shall befall you, on hill nor bank, In field or valley, on mountain or in glen.

Neither above, nor below, neither in sea, Nor on shore, in skies above, Nor in the depths.

You are the kernel of my heart, you are the face of my sun, you are the harp of my music,

You are the crown of my company.

An Excerpt from the Prophet by Kahil Gibran

Love has no other desire but to fulfil itself.

But if you love and must needs have desires, let these be your desires:

To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night.

To know the pain of too much tenderness.

To be wounded by your own understanding of love;

And to bleed willingly and joyfully.

To wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving;

To rest at the noon hour and meditate love's ecstasy;

To return home at eventide with gratitude;

And then to sleep with a prayer for the beloved in your heart and a song of praise on your lips.

An Apache Blessing

Now you will feel no rain,

for each of you will be shelter for the other.

Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you.

May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years,

May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth.

Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together.

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves.

When frustration, difficulties and fear assail your relationship, as they threaten all relationships at one time or another, remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong.

In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives - remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there.

And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

Bible readings:

You can look up these readings on biblegateway.com and type in the name of the book listed and the chapter next to it. You can also choose the version you like. Or you can visit <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/your-wedding/readings.aspx>

Love 1 Corinthians Chapter 13

God creates men and women Genesis Chapter 1 v 26-28

A Love Poem Song of Solomon Chapter 2 v 10-13, Chapter 8 v 6 and 7

Jesus teaches us how to live a life of happiness Matthew Chapter 5 v 1-10

Jesus teaches about marriage and welcomes children Mark Chapter 10 v 6-9 and 13-16

Relationships Colossians Chapter 3 v 4-9

Or another favourite Bible passage of your own choice.