

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In the art of marriage, the little things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands. It is remembering to say, "I love you". It is at no time taking the other for granted. It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives; it is standing together facing the world. It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. It is not expecting perfection in each other. It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding, and a sense of humor. It is having a capacity to forgive and forget. It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, the dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful. It is not marrying the right partner; it is being the right partner. It is discovering that your love for one another at its best will never lose sight of or be blotted out by the common place experiences of life.

And it is remembering that remaining devoted, confident and hopeful in one another are the secret ingredients, which will help you to remain two very happy people, richer for your oneness.

(Groom's Name), will you take (Bride's Name) to be your wife, will you continue to be loving and caring, to comfort her, to protect your love for her, cherishing her, honoring and respecting her and your promises to her throughout all the events of your lives together?

(Bride's Name), will you take (Groom's Name) to be your husband, will you continue to be loving and caring, to comfort him, to protect your love for him, cherishing him, honoring and respecting him and your promises to him throughout all the events of your lives together?

VOWS

(Groom) Today I give myself to you and ask for your tomorrows. I promise to love you more than anyone else can; to give you my strength and ask for yours in return; to help you in good times and in bad. I give you all my trust and ask you to accept me as your husband.

(Bride) Today I give myself to you and ask for your tomorrows. I promise to love you more than anyone else can; to give you my strength and ask for yours in return; to help you in good times and in bad. I give you all my trust and ask you to accept me as your wife.

RING CEREMONY

(Groom's Name), take this ring as a symbol of my devotion to you, of the gift of love that has come to us and my desire to live my life with you.

(Bride's Name), take this ring as a symbol of my devotion to you, of the gift of love that has come to us and my desire to live my life with you.

SAND CEREMONY

Option #1 (short)

This sand is symbolic of two people as two separate people in their own right. By the joining of these two colors of sand into one, this symbolizes the strength and unity of two into one, depicting, (Bride's and Groom's Names) belief that together they can become greater than each could alone.

Option #2 (longer)

And now, let us participate in another symbolic act. Life is full of many actions that speak to us of a deeper meaning that we cannot always put into words. In addition to your stated vows, you have used ancient symbols in this wedding service—the exchange of rings, the clasping of hands, the bearing of flowers. By doing these things you act, instead of speak, to show your promises to each other.

In marriage, God calls upon a man and a woman to leave their parents to join one another in love, and become one in flesh. Each of your parents has poured different colored sand into a vessel. In a moment, each of you will take a vessel of sand and together you will pour the sand from your vessel into the larger one. The sand from each individual vessel will then intermingle together.

This is a vivid reminder that in marriage our lives are also merged, even as we remain individuals.

[Groom and Brides name], you have sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings. This symbolic act that you do now is another pledge between two people who commit themselves to one another for the rest of their lives. The most beautiful example of this kind of partnership is the marriage relationship. You have committed here today, by your vows and these symbolic acts, to share the rest of your lives with each other. Now this relationship is further symbolized through the pouring of these two vessels of sand, one representing you [Grooms name], and all that you were, all that you are, all that you will ever be, and the other you [Brides name], all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be.

I ask now that you each take a vessel of sand and pour it into the center larger vessel. As the sand intermingles together, it will further symbolize the union of your two lives. As the two vessels of sand are poured into the larger one, the individual vessels no longer exist, but are joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured into individual vessels, so are you two joined as one. The individual lives that each of you experienced until now, will hereafter be inseparably united, for the two of you shall become one.

End of sand ceremony

(Bride's and Groom's Names), you have expressed your love to one another by the giving of a commitment and the promises you have just made. So it is with these in mind and by the authority given to me I pronounce that you are husband and wife.

(Bride's and Groom's Names), you may seal your promises with a kiss.

(Bride's and Groom's Names), never forget the beginning of your love for one another, take care of it, nurture it, and allow it to grow strong and firm in the years that are to come. Always concentrate on making each other feel happy and secure in your commitment to one another. Always rely on your ability to keep the promises you have made to one another today and always love one another.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I present to you Mr. and Mrs. (Names).