



1. Why do people get married?

- Love may be the biggest reason people marry but it's not the only one.
- People make the commitment to spend their lives together for more than a single reason.
- Every couple chooses to commit to marriage because it serves their needs and supports their values and dreams.
- Marriage is said to be the beginning—the beginning of the family.



Key Vocabulary

MARRIAGE - the legally or formally recognized union of two people as partners in a personal relationship
rites - a religious or other ceremony or act
rituals - a sequence of activities involving gestures, words, actions, or objects, performed in a sequestered place and according to a set sequence.

PROMISES - a declaration or assurance that one will do something or that a particular thing will happen.

COMMITMENT - an agreement or pledge to do something in the future

2. What can we learn from marriage rites in Christianity?

- Questions are asked about the couples' faithfulness to one another and their willingness to bring up children in their faith.
- The vows are made and the rings are exchanged.
- Liturgy of the Eucharist: gifts are presented and the altar is prepared.
- The Eucharist prayer is said.

3. What can we learn from marriage rites in Islam?

- Normally, the ceremony consists of reading from the Qur'an
- The exchange of vows in front of witnesses for both partners.
- No special religious official is necessary, but often the Imam is present and performs the ceremony.
- A short sermon may be given.

4. What can we learn from marriage rites in Judaism?

While wedding ceremonies vary, common features of a Jewish wedding include:

- a ketubah (marriage contract) which is signed by two witnesses.
- a chuppah (or huppah; wedding canopy),
- a ring owned by the groom that is given to the bride under the canopy, and the breaking of a glass.

5. What can we learn from marriage rites in Hinduism?

- There is no single standard Hindu marriage ceremony.
- There is considerable flexibility within each ritual and variation reflects family traditions, local traditions, resources of the families and other factors.
- However, three key rituals are predominantly seen: **Kanyadana**, **Panigrahana** and **Saptapadi**.

6. How easy is it to keep a promise? You need a number of skills in order to make and keep a promise: *commitment, trust, honesty, willpower, enthusiasm, respect*

