

Suggested readings for Weddings

The most well known and well used reading

1 Corinthians, Chapter 13 – Love

Old Testament Readings – Psalms

Psalm 67 – A psalm, a song of praise

Psalm 121 – A song reflecting God's protection and help

Psalm 128 – God's blessing

Other Old Testament Readings

Genesis 1: 26-28 - God creates women and men to look after the Earth.

Song of Solomon 2: 10-13 - A love poem between two lovers. (Part I)

Song of Solomon 8: 6-7 - A love poem between two lovers. (Part II)

New Testament Readings

Matthew 5: 1-10 - Jesus on how to live a life that brings true happiness.

Mark 10:6-9 - Jesus teaches about marriage.

Mark 10: 13-16 - Jesus welcomes children.

John 2:1-11 - What happens when Jesus attends a wedding reception.

John 15:1-8 - The Vine and the Branches

John 15:9-17 – Remain in God's love & Love one another

Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 – Living Sacrifices & Love

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 – If God is for us, who can be against us

Romans 15:1-3, 5-7, 13 – spirit of unity

Ephesians 4:1-6 Bearing with one another in love

1 John 4:7-12 God's Love & Ours

Ephesians 5:21-33 - Committing to each other.

Philippians 4:4-9 Seeing the good side

Colossians 3:12-17 - Getting the perfect relationship.

1 John 3:18-24 – Loving one another as God commands

***Love - The number one most popular reading used at weddings. ***

*** 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13 ***

*** (You can shorten just to the verses underlined) ***

1 Corinthians 13 (New International Version)

Love

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Old Testament Readings - Psalms

Psalm 67 – A psalm, a song of praise

Psalm 67(New International Version)

¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us,

² that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

³ May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.

⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

⁵ May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.

⁶ Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.

⁷ God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Psalm 121 – A song reflecting God’s protection and help

Psalm 121 (New International Version)

A song of ascents.

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber;

⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD watches over you - the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life;

⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Psalm 128 – God’s blessing

Psalm 128 (New International Version)

- ¹ Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways.
- ² You will eat the fruit of your labour; blessings and prosperity will be yours.
- ³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
your sons will be like olive shoots around your table.
- ⁴ Thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD.
- ⁵ May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem,
- ⁶ and may you live to see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel.

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**Other Old Testament Readings**

Genesis, Chapter 1, verses 26-28  
God creates women and men to look after the Earth.

**Genesis 1:26-28 (New International Version)**

- <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."
- <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.
- <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Song of Solomon, Chapter 2, verses 10-13  
A love poem between two lovers. (Part I)

**Song of Solomon 2:10-13 (New International Version)**

- <sup>10</sup> My lover spoke and said to me,  
"Arise, my darling,  
my beautiful one, and come with me.
- <sup>11</sup> See! The winter is past;  
the rains are over and gone.
- <sup>12</sup> Flowers appear on the earth;  
the season of singing has come,  
the cooing of doves  
is heard in our land.
- <sup>13</sup> The fig tree forms its early fruit;  
the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.  
Arise, come, my darling;  
my beautiful one, come with me."

Song of Solomon, Chapter 8, verses 6-7  
A love poem between two lovers. (Part II)

**Song of Solomon 8:6-7 (New International Version)**

- <sup>6</sup> Place me like a seal over your heart,  
like a seal on your arm;  
for love is as strong as death,  
its jealousy unyielding as the grave.  
It burns like blazing fire,  
like a mighty flame.
- <sup>7</sup> Many waters cannot quench love;  
rivers cannot wash it away.  
If one were to give  
all the wealth of his house for love,  
it would be utterly scorned.

## *New Testament Readings*

Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 1-10  
Jesus teaches how to live a life that brings true happiness.

### **Matthew 5:1-10 (New International Version)**

#### *The Beatitudes*

<sup>1</sup>Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mark, Chapter 10, verses 6-9  
Jesus teaches about marriage.

### **Mark 10:6-9 (New International Version)**

<sup>6</sup>"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.'

<sup>7</sup>For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Mark, Chapter 10, verses 13-16  
Jesus welcomes children.

**Mark 10:13-16 (New International Version)**

***The Little Children and Jesus***

<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup>I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

John, Chapter 2, verses 1-11  
What happens when Jesus attends a wedding reception.

**John 2:1-11 (New International Version)**

***Jesus Changes Water to Wine***

<sup>1</sup>On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, <sup>2</sup>and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." <sup>4</sup>"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come." <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup>Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. <sup>8</sup>Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, <sup>9</sup>and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside <sup>10</sup>and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

<sup>11</sup>This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

John 15:1-8 - The Vine and the Branches

**John 15:1-8 (New International Version)**

<sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup>"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:9-17 – Remain in God's love & Love one another

**John 15:9-17 (New International Version)**

<sup>9</sup>"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 – Living Sacrifices & Love

**Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 – If God is for us, who can be against us

**Romans 8:31-35, 37-39**

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 15:1-3, 5-7, 13 – spirit of unity

**Romans 15 :1-3, 5-7, 13 (New International Version)**

<sup>1</sup>We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup>Each of us should please his neighbour for his good, to build him up. <sup>3</sup>For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

<sup>5</sup>May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:1-6 Bearing with one another in love

**Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV) Unity in the Body of Christ**

<sup>1</sup>As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup>Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup>Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

1 John, Chapter 4, verses 7-12 God's Love & Ours

**1 John 4:7-12 (New International Version)**

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Ephesians, Chapter 5, verses 21-33 - Committing to each other.

### **Ephesians 5:21-33 (New International Version) Wives and Husbands**

<sup>21</sup>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup>for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Philippians, Chapter 4, verses 4-9  
Seeing the good side.

### **Philippians 4:4-9 (New International Version)**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup>Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Colossians, Chapter 3, verses 12-17  
Getting the perfect relationship.

**Colossians 3:12-17 (New International Version)**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John 3:18-24 – Loving one another as God commands

**1 John 3:18-24 (New International Version)**

<sup>18</sup>Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup>This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

<sup>21</sup>Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup>and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup>Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.