

# WEDDING BIBLE TALK IDEAS

## Talk Title: THE ROLE MODEL FOR MARRIAGE

**Bible Reading:** Philippians 2:5-11

**Talk Summary:** When we step up to a new role in life, it's always worth looking for a role model – to find the best role model you can. In marriage, Jesus is the best role model, showing us what love and sacrifice looks like in marriage – how to make your vows real. Jesus went from the throne room of the universe to hanging bloody and dirty on a cross as he put us first, paying for our sins. That's what the bible says has got to be your model. That's the model if you want a marriage that works. As you get married here today, what you need to be doing – each of you – is climbing down off your throne to make yourself a servant. *Groom:* climbing down off your throne as number one in your life and taking *Bride* as number one. *Bride:* doing the same. Stepping down from the position as most important person in your life, and giving yourself to *Groom*.

**Gospel Call:** Jesus isn't just a model for marriage but for life. For all of life. For all of us. Jesus is the key to every part of life. And he's the only way to eternal life. He willingly gave himself over to be crucified so everyone who believes in Him can know God's love and receive eternal life. So take him as your model for life, by accepting him as your Saviour who gives life.

## Talk Title: WHAT IS LOVE?

**Bible Reading:** 1 John 3:16, 1 John 4:7-16

**Talk Summary:** There are more songs about love than any other topic (for example... include some contemporary song titles). Often songs express a deep question or search for true love – from the many different songs with the title 'what is love?' to the angsty 80s song by Foreigner, 'I want to know what love is?' If you listened to the vows *bride* and *groom* said today – today is all about love. But what is this love? Where do we see this love? The Bible tells us we can know what love is. We can learn how a husband & wife ought to love each other by looking at how God has loved us. 1 John 3:16 says, 'this is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.' God doesn't just give us advice about love. It's not just a few tips from some armchair expert sitting up in heaven with no idea how hard true love can be. No! He's shown us love in action. Not just singing about love but showing us the ultimate demonstration of love. Although we wronged him, he made the first move, to patch things up, to remove the barrier between us & him. *Groom, Bride*, make your love like that. There will be tough moments, but Jesus love is the key, showing us how to bring down barriers through sacrificial love.

**Gospel Call:** Friends, at a big occasion like a wedding, it's one of the few times we stop and think about things that matter. As we reflect on God's sacrificial love today, it's a message not just for *Groom* and *Bride*. It's a message for all of us to stop and think about isn't it? Here's God making the move towards you, at the cost of his precious son's life. I trust you're not ignoring that, you won't snub that? Especially, when we're in the wrong yet he's offering to put it right?

**Talk Title: MADE FOR EACH OTHER****Bible Reading:** Colossians 1:15-23

**Talk Summary:** A phrase that often gets used at weddings is that “they are made for each other.” So, I guess you’re all wondering, “What about *Groom* and *Bride*?” Some of you have known them for a long time and you might feel they were made for each other because... (shared interests, background, etc or because opposites attract!). They look great together today don’t they? But I hope this isn’t a shock to you. They definitely were not made for each other. I didn’t discover this in pre-marriage counselling, but in the Bible. Because Colossians 1:16 says that they were both made – that we were all made for Jesus Christ. It’s the idea that you best grow with each other as you grow in him. It’s bigger than your two stories blending into each other but rather, together having your story rewritten by Jesus. Jesus is the one who shows us what God is like, what love is like. Jesus is the one who made us, who gives us life. Jesus is the one who made peace between God and us through his death on the cross. Groom and bride, if I told you that you were made for each other that would be sabotaging your marriage from the start. It’s not enough even just to put each other first but rather to together put Jesus first. Then not only will your love for each other truly grow – but also your love for others.

**Gospel Call:** Lots of thank-yous are said at weddings. I want to suggest the biggest thanks today should go to Jesus. For dying for us, to bring us forgiveness. For rising to life, to give us hope. For promising us eternal life, if we put our trust in him. And that’s something not just for *Groom* and *Bride* to think about as they start out married life together, but all of us. We all should ask: am I living for the one I’ve been made for? Or am I ignoring him - the one who died to give me life?

**Talk Title: HEALTHY MARRIAGE****Bible Reading:** 1 Corinthians 13

**Talk Summary:** What’s the diet for a healthy marriage? Just like with healthy eating, it’s all about getting plenty of the right stuff, like those food pyramids on the side of your cereal packet, telling you how much you should eat from particular food groups each day. Lots of fruit and veg at the bottom. And then all the stuff you really like in a tiny triangle at the top. Just like you need the right ingredients for a healthy diet, that’s even more critical for a healthy marriage. Did you hear it in 1 Corinthians 13? Being selfless was one key ingredient: ‘love isn’t self-seeking’ – not putting yourself first (when you’ve both had a tough day, be the one to make the dinner). Being supportive is another key ingredient: ‘love is patient and kind’ – all those annoying little habits that get on your nerves or the big moments of conflict (be the one to listen more than talk, don’t drag up past wrongs but take out the garbage!). Being steadfast is another key ingredient: ‘love perseveres, never fails’ – being faithful to the promises you made today (when you look good and when you don’t, when the bank balance is good and when it isn’t...). Bride and Groom, that’s the diet for a healthy marriage: selfless, supportive and steadfast. But where do you see love like that? It’s Jesus being described here! Not self-seeking? He died for us! Supportive? Not keeping a record of wrongs? He brings God’s total forgiveness wiping the slate clean so we can be friends with God. Steadfast? He loves us all the way to heaven! The bottom row of the pyramid – the absolute foundation for a healthy marriage, it’s Jesus.

**Gospel Call:** I hope you enjoy a nice feed at afternoon tea shortly. Maybe tomorrow you can get back to that food pyramid! But don’t leave it ‘til tomorrow to see the key ingredient for life. Accepting Jesus as saviour. Following him as Lord. It’s a message not just for *Groom* and *Bride* but for us all!