



### Bible Readings for Weddings

*Here are a few of the most popular Bible readings for weddings. You must have at least one Bible reading in your service. Many couples choose a poem or reading from another source which is read before the Bible reading. If you would like to involve a family member or friend in the service asking them to read is a good way of doing so.*

#### The gospel of St John, chapter 2, verses 1-11. 'The Wedding at Cana'

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

#### 1 Corinthians, chapter 13. 'Love as the greatest virtue'

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

#### The first letter of St John, chapter 4 verses 7-13. 'God is love'

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

The Song of Solomon, chapter two verses 101-3 and chapter 8 verses 6-7.  
'A Hebrew love song'

My beloved speaks and says to me:

'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;

for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,

and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.'

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;

for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.

If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

Ecclesiastes, chapter 4, verses 9-12 'Two are better than one'

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.

Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone?

And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one.

A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Wedding hymns

*Music adds an important dimension to your special day. Here are the top hymns sung at weddings.*

1. Jerusalem ('And did those feet')
2. All things bright and beautiful
3. Morning has broken
4. Make me a channel of your peace
5. Dear Lord and Father of mankind
6. Love divine, all loves excelling
7. Praise my soul the King of Heaven
8. Make me a channel of your peace
9. Lord of the dance
10. One more step along the world I go
11. Be thou my vision

*There are lots of helpful hints on the Church of England's wedding webpage*

[www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org)

