

Friendship Vows: A Renewal Ceremony

It's truly a joy to be married to your best friend! This renewal ceremony focuses on the blessing of friendship in marriage.

Instructions

Each couple, including leaders, will have one candle to share. Leaders will begin the candle lighting ceremony by lighting a candle; then that candle will be used to light candles in a group of assisting couples, who will then fan out throughout the auditorium and light the candles of all the participants.

Couples can either stand or remain seated, but they will need to face each other. Please avoid any handouts, as they are difficult to hold while the candles are being held.

Ceremony

(Light the first candle and hold it up.)

Leader Couple: Friendship is the spirit of closeness and companionship that comes from people communicating their hopes, fears, and joys with each other. There are no one-way friendships. Individuals must choose to share themselves with someone they love if they desire to experience true friendship.

(Start lighting the candles of the assisting couples.)

Leader Couple: Just as the candlelight begins to illuminate this room, so a person's friendship with God lights their life with love and joy. One of life's greatest blessings is when a husband and wife allow their relationship to be filled with the light of mutual friendship with God. God gives us a pattern for love and communication that can best be seen through His Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him, communication and forgiveness become the basis of the relationship. When a couple is growing in friendship with God each day, their lives continue to demonstrate the love of God in and through their relationships. Sometimes those relationships develop into deeply cherished friendships.

(Allow all of the candles to be lit.)

Leader Couple: Face your partner – God's choice to be your best friend in life. Join your hands together and repeat these friendship vows:

Husbands: As I look into your eyes, I remember the beauty that I saw when we first met. I will spend more time focusing on your qualities in a positive way and letting you know just how much I appreciate you. I will work to develop my ability to be a better listener and a better communicator of my thoughts and feelings. I want to express the love I have for you in ways that you will clearly understand. I want to be the kind of husband that will encourage both of us to become all that God wants us to be. As we face the challenges of life together, I want you to know that you can count on me to be a friend for life.

Wives: As I look into your eyes, I remember the strength that I saw when we first met. I will spend more time focusing on your qualities in a positive way and letting you know just how much I appreciate you. I will work to develop my ability to be a better listener and a better communicator of my thoughts and feelings. I want to express the love I have for you in ways that you will clearly understand. I want to be the kind of wife that will encourage both of us to become all that God wants us to be. As we face the challenges of life together, I want you to know that you can count on me to be a friend for life.

Leader Couple: Gentlemen, you may kiss your bride!

(Leader Couple, close with a prayer thanking God for the gift of friendship between husbands and wives.)