



## We Are the Bride

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### P<sub>review</sub>

The Bible presents marriage as a beautiful metaphor for our relationship with Jesus. We are His bride, and His love for us is incredibly deep: “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (**Ephesians 5:25**).

### P<sub>raise</sub>

Let’s pause for a moment, close our eyes, and think about the kind of love that causes someone to willingly give his life for another. (*Have a moment of silent contemplation and gratitude to Jesus for His love.*)

### P<sub>arable</sub>

*Show the group a few of your parents’ (or other family members’) wedding photos. Briefly give a few details about who, when, and where.*

There’s nothing quite like the beauty and joy of a bride on her wedding day!

### P<sub>resent</sub>

#### Before the Wedding Ceremony

- When two people decide to get married, what are some things they do to prepare for their wedding day? (*choose bridesmaids and groomsmen, buy wedding clothes, prepare a place to live, get premarital counseling, send out invitations, plan decorations and food, etc.*)

Our groom has gone away for a while. *Read **John 14:2-3** from your Bible.*

- What has Jesus gone to prepare for us? (*a place, a mansion, a home*)

While Jesus is away preparing a home for us, we are getting ready for the wedding. *Read **Revelation 19:7-8**.*

Notice that in these verses Jesus is called by one of His titles, the Lamb.

- The bride arrays (dresses) herself in what kind of linen? (*fine linen, clean and white*)
- What is the “fine linen” the bride dresses herself in? (*the righteousness of the saints*)
- What is “righteousness”? (*the quality of being right and doing what is right*)



Show one of the wedding photos or “The Bride” visual: <http://www.creative-sunday-school-ideas.com/support-files/bride-visual.pdf> .

The bride’s dress is beautifully clean and white.

- How would she react if she spilled something on her dress? (*she would be upset, angry, sad, distraught, in tears, etc.*)

A bride wants to look her best on her wedding day. Just one spot on her dress spoils its beauty. Just one sin in our lives ruins our righteousness.

- Can we be righteous (be right and do right) on our own? (*no; we need Jesus’ righteousness*)

Jesus loves us so much that He gave His very life to cleanse our sins and make us righteous.

Read **Ephesians 5:25-27** from “The Bride” visual or your Bible.

### The Wedding Ceremony

During the ceremony, the bride and groom make vows (solemn promises) to each other. They repeat something like this:

I, (name), take thee, (name), to be my wedded (wife/husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish until death do us part, according to God’s holy law; and thereto do I pledge thee my troth.

- What is “troth”? (*faithfulness, loyalty*)

We can trust Jesus to faithfully keep His promises to us, including that He will never leave nor forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5**). His love for us is so strong that nothing (including death, life, angels, principalities, powers, the present, the future, etc.) can separate us from it (**Romans 8:38-39**).

- As the bride of Christ, what are some promises we make to Him? (*to love Him; obey Him [“If ye love me, keep my commandments” John 14:15]; be loyal to Him [serve no other gods]; keep our hearts clean and ready for when He comes back, etc.*)

### After the Wedding Ceremony

After making solemn vows, it’s time to celebrate! The wedding reception usually includes family, friends, food, music, gifts, fun, and laughter.



When we finally join Jesus in Heaven, there is going to be a celebration! The Bible calls it the “marriage supper of the Lamb” (**Revelation 19:9**). We don’t know many details, but we do know everyone there will be happy (blessed), and there will be heavenly food (supper)!

## **P**actice

As the bride of Christ:

1. Are you confident in His love for you?
2. Are you looking forward to His return?
3. Have you taken His name in baptism?
4. Have you asked Him to forgive your sins and fill you with His Spirit, to make you righteous?
5. Are you keeping your “wedding clothes” clean?

## **P**ray

Let’s pray right now and renew our promises to love and obey Jesus. Let’s ask Him to make us righteous. Let’s thank Him for the wonderful home He is preparing for us in Heaven.

## **P**lus

*Possibly hand out party poppers or bubbles (wedding-type favors).*

This week take time to remember how much you are loved by Jesus and to celebrate!