

## A time to rejoice

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Would you like to do something special for someone who is getting married? You can honor brides in your midst with special occasions in which you present them with Bibles. Here's an outline of what you can do.

- Plan with the bride. Decide about a time, place, date. Make sure it does not conflict with other pre-wedding plans. Invite the groom-to-be, if desired.
- Make assignments within your group of friends. This occasion can be simple. You can either do it at the end of a regular church activity or you may want to make it part of a shower or social occasion for the couple.
- Invite other people, as appropriate.
- Buy a Bible. The idea is to give a Bible that the couple can give to a non-Christian who comes into their home after they marry. Get an easy-to-read translation.
- Arrange special effects, such as music, if desired.
- Read over the material that follows to use in presenting the Bible. Enlist people to participate. Adapt as needed.

## Some words to say

**Leader:** We are here because we want to rejoice with you at this time in your life. We are also here because we believe in Christian marriage and the importance of the step you are about to take. So, as your friends, we want to show our support and say a few words. We want to share some things from the book of Philippians, which is a book of rejoicing - rejoicing in the Lord. As much as we rejoice with you now and want you to rejoice on your special day, we also want you to know that true rejoicing comes only from the Lord in obedience to Him.

**Friend 1:** I rejoice with you today because (*fill in your own thought*). Philippians 1:6B says (*read verse*). I am confident that what God begins in your marriage He will continue. He always finishes what He starts. My prayer for you is (*fill in your own thought*).

**Friend 2:** I rejoice with you today because (*fill in your own thought*). Philippians 1:9-11 says (*Read verses*). God wants your love to grow - your love for each other and your love for Him and other people. My prayer for you is (*fill in your own thought*).

**Friend 3:** I rejoice with you today because (*fill in your own thought*). According to Philippians 2:3-4 (*read verses*). The most successful marriages are those where both people look out for each other, rather than for themselves. This is a biblical admonition. My prayer for you is (*fill in your own thought*).

**Friend 4:** I rejoice with you today because (*fill in your own thought*). From Philippians 2:5-11 (*read verse*). Affirming Christ's lordship in your marriage is the single most important thing you can do to keep your priorities in order. My prayer for you is (*fill in your own thought*).

**Friend 5:** I rejoice with you today because (*fill in your own thought*). From Philippians 2:14 says (*read verse*). When things go wrong, will you complain or argue, or will you obey what the Bible says? The Bible provides the key to a harmonious relationship. My prayer for you is (*fill in your own thought*).

**Friend 6:** I rejoice with you today because (*fill in your own thought*). From Philippians 3:8-10 (*read verses*). God wants you to be able to say that everything else is insignificant compared to knowing Christ, yes even in your marriage. My prayer for you is (*fill in your own thought*).

**Leader:** Philippians 4:4 says (*read verse*). We want you to rejoice in the Lord, especially as you relate to non-Christians. Therefore, we give you this Bible to keep in your home until a time when you can pass it on to an unbeliever who we hope can see in you what it means to rejoice in the Lord. (*Lead in prayer of dedication.*)