

Children Recognition Ceremony Samples

Sample 1

(Note: Below you will find the Family Medallion ceremony which can be modified however you like to fit your family and preferences. Instead of medallions, you can give your child/children flowers, jewelry, hugs or anything else. The important part is to make the child/children feel like they are a part of the festivities.)

Often marriage is viewed as the union of two individuals. In reality, however, marriage is much broader. As we give thanks to God for the love that brings _____ and _____ together, so too we recognize the merging of families taking place and the additional love and responsibility that family and friends bring to this relationship.

We are, in fact, all members of one family, of God's family, a relationship emphasized in the scriptures. And it was a happy day for God when we received our new lives, through the truth of God's work and we become, as it were, the first children in God's new family.

As part of the family nature of God's creation we recognize _____ and the significant role he/she/they play(s) in this marriage today celebrated. (*Child/children may be brought forward by grandparents or others if they are too young to stand as members of the wedding party.*)

Presentation of Medallions (or any other suitable object such as a rose, flower or piece of jewelry)

_____ and _____ present to _____ this/these Family Medallion(s) created as a symbol for new family relationship and in recognition of the hope and joy made visible through this marriage.

(Addressing child/children), _____, In the placing of this/these medallion(s) _____ pledge to you their continuing love even as they surround him/her now with their arms of support and protection.

Reading

Our children are gifts entrusted to us not as objects to be controlled but as human beings, each unique in their own personality, each separate in their own identity. Consider the words from *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran:

You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies but not their souls, for they dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday. You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

Prayer For the Family

Creator God, you have made us in your own image, male and female, that together, we may live as members of your one family. As you surround us with never-ending love, strengthen us that we, too, might reflect your love, becoming ever supportive of one another in times of sorrow, forgiving of one in other in times of anger, patient in those moments when we seek to rebuild.

We give thanks, O Lord, for the relationship here celebrated. In your presence we are humbled by the recognition that, today, we face a new future, one which love has unfolded and is unfolding before our very eyes. May we ever respect the sanctity of this gift.

As you have filled our cup with joy, may we share the strength of our deepening love for one another. Amen.

Go forth bound together by the love of God. Go forth with hope and joy and a heart full of dreams, knowing that God is always with you. Amen

Introduction of the Family (could use at the end of the ceremony or not)

It is my pleasure to present to you _____ and _____ in their new relationship as husband and wife and their son/daughter/children _____.

Sample 2

GROOM and BRIDE, today as you have sealed your commitment to each other by the giving and receiving of rings, you too make a commitment to CHILD(REN). We lovingly recognize the significant role that CHILD(REN) plays in this marriage celebrated today. GROOM and BRIDE'S love for CHILD(REN) has no boundaries and they commit today to be the best parents they can be for CHILD(REN) as he/she/they travel through the journey of life.

CHILD(REN), would you please come up and join BRIDE and GROOM in a commitment to each other and your new beautiful, blended family.

GROOM/BRIDE, do you promise to be a good role model, patient and loving with CHILD(REN). Do you promise to be a caring, nurturing, and supportive parent and always encourage him/her/them. Will you always be his/her/their strength and provide unconditional emotional support when he/she/they needs it and always love him/her/them like your own? (I do or We do)

CHILD(REN) do you promise to love, honor and respect your father's/mother's new wife/husband? Do you promise to be supportive and encourage GROOM and BRIDE'S new life together? (I do or We do)

The ring is a circle... an ancient symbol of eternal love. This ring represents your family and your love for each other. In the giving of this ring, do you both pledge to CHILD(REN) your commitment to surround and support him/her/them with unconditional love as you all share in

your new life together? (We do) *At this time, Bride and Groom place the ring on CHILD(REN)'s finger.*

Sample 3

As part of the family nature of God's creation we recognize CHILD(REN) and the significant role he/she/they plays in this marriage being celebrated today. BRIDE/GROOM would like to present this (ring, necklace, family unity pendant, etc.) as a symbol of family unity, representing the hope and joy made visible through this marriage being celebrated today.

GROOM/BRIDE, please repeat after me:

Not only do I vow to be a good and faithful husband/wife to you, BRIDE/GROOM, but I also vow to be a patient, loving father/mother to CHILD(REN), caring for him/her/they and providing for him/her/they as my own. I vow to be his/her/their strength and his/her/their emotional support, loving him/her/they with all my heart from this day forward.

CHILD(REN), please accept this token as our promise to love and cherish you, stand by you in all your endeavors, share in your joys and sorrows. We will be there whenever you need us and we will love you with all of our hearts, always and forever.

At this time, Bride and Groom present the CHILD(REN) with the token of family unity.

Sample 4

CHILD(REN), would you please come up and join BRIDE and GROOM.

GROOM and BRIDE, the rings you have given to one another are symbols of your commitment to one another, but they are also more. For today you are also making a commitment to CHILD(REN). Today you are pledging your love to him/her/they as well, committing to him/her/they that you will create a family together. Let the perfect circle of the wedding ring embrace CHILD(REN), as well as the two of you. For our children are gifts entrusted to us.

BRIDE and GROOM, you have begun the adventure of parenting together. Do you both promise to work together as CHILDR(REN)'s parents, to share with one another the joys and sorrows of raising him/her/they, and to cherish your family as you cherish one another? (We do)

Do you BRIDE and GROOM promise to honor and protect CHILD(REN), and to provide for him/her/they to the best of your ability? Do you promise to make his/her/their home a haven, where trust, love, and laughter are abundant? And do you make these promises lovingly, and freely, and vow to honor them all the days of your lives? (We do)

As you embark on your journey as CHILD(REN)'s parents, consider these words from The Prophet: You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls, for they dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. You may strive to be like them, in their innocence, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday. You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

Sample 5

(Children's names), will you please come up and join (Bride's name) and (Groom's name)?

(Bride's name) and (Groom's name), please present your token to (Children's names) and repeat after me:

We give you this token, as a symbol of our love and devotion to you. With this token and with our hearts, we invite you to forever be a part of this new family. Accept this token, and make our new family your own.

Sample 6

(Child's name), will you please join us?

(Bride's name) and (Groom's name) would like to recognize (Child's name) and welcome him/her into this loving family. This union is about more than just (Bride's name) and (Groom's name). It is also about the importance that (Child's name) has in this union and the love this newly created family will share. (Bride's name) and (Groom's name), please give (Child's name) the special token you have chosen to symbolize the love and importance of this family.