

Shell Ceremony Ideas

Option 1:

Officiant to guests: _____ and ____ are deeply grateful for each and every one of you here today. You all hold a place in their hearts reserved for those that they have chosen to call "Family" and "Friend" and because of this they would like to ask you to participate in the blessing of their union with a special seashell ceremony.

As you arrived you were given a seashell. As you hold this shell in your hand think of a blessing that you wish for the couple, for their marriage, such as joy, love, happiness, health, trust...

Officiant to couple: _____ and ____ when a commitment this strong is made by two people, the force of that commitment - of that love, of that courage, reaches out and touches all of us around you, so that our lives are changed and we share a part of your love.

Like a seashell dropped in an ocean, the ripple of the love from this celebration extends and changes the world we live in.

Officiant to guests: In a moment we will accompany the newlyweds to the water's edge and on the count of 3 we will throw our shells into the sea and as the ripples touch and intertwine with one another, may our love and blessings also touch and intertwine. And should these shells wash up on the shore, may the blessings they contain reach out and touch those who find them, so that their lives are changed and we all share a part of the love that has been expressed here today..

(Officiant will prompt designated person to hand bride her bouquet. Bride and groom will lead the way to the water's edge)

Officiant: 1.....2.....3.... (Every one tosses shells into the ocean)

Option 2:

Officiant

Will each guest please take a seashell and accompany me to the water's edge.

Officiant to bride and groom:

Before you met, your lives were on different paths with different destinations. But love has brought you together and joined these separate paths into one.

Each one of your friends and family here today have been given a small seashell that represents their unique individuality and their presence at your wedding today.

When a commitment this strong is made by two people, the force of that commitment, of that love, of that courage, reaches out and touches all of us around you, so that our lives are changed and we share a part of your love.

Like a seashell dropped in an ocean, the ripple of the love from this celebration extends and changes the world we live in.

I will now ask that everyone please take out the shell you have been given and pause to make a wish or blessing for happiness and good will for the couple and for the future of their marriage. On the count of 3 we will throw our shells into the sea and as the ripples touch and intertwine with one another, may our love and blessings also touch and intertwine.

1.....2.....3....

Option 3:

Officiant:

Will each guest please take a seashell and accompany me to the water's edge.

Now, in the spirit of joy and affirmation, I want to ask your families and friends a question:

Do you the families and friends of Groom and Bride give them your blessing and support, wishing them a wonderful life together as they marry? If so, please show them your support by saying "we will".

Guests say I Will!

I will now ask that everyone please take out the Stone/Seashell you have been given and pause to make a wish or blessing for happiness and goodwill for the couple for the future of their marriage.

Moment of silence to place blessings on Stone/Seashell.

Officiant:

At the count of 3 together cast your shell/stone into the sea and set these blessings free .

May the love that is expressed here today be carried out to on the gentle waves of the vast Atlantic Ocean –that touches all parts of the world, to intertwine and spread love and good wishes to all around us. 1...2...3!

Option 4:

Officiant:

Will each guest please take a seashell and accompany me to the water's edge.

Each of our guests have been given a shell
to hold, bless and protect

Bride and Groom ask that in your mind and heart

You pray that their marriage be blessed.

At the count of 3-Come cast our shells into the sea, and as the ripples

Touch and intertwine with one another,

May our love also touch and intertwine
To spread love and good wishes to all around us!
May God bless us all!

1...2....3

*****Fun addition to any of these options: The couple may choose to put a message in a bottle and seal it and while guests throw shells into the ocean, they throw their bottle. On the note be sure to include your email address or other way for whoever finds it to get in touch with you.

If you prefer you may have guests put shell or stone in a vase to keep as a keepsake

* This is also a good backup in case of inclement weather

Keepsake Options

Option 5:

Officiant: (Stone/shell placed in vase -This is said at the beginning of the ceremony as part of the greeting)

When you entered today, you received a Stone/Seashell. Groom and Bride ask that you hold this Stone/seashell in your hands throughout the ceremony and put your blessings for them on it. At the end of the ceremony they ask that you put this special shell/stone that now hold in them the energy of your blessing for them in the vase at the back. This vase of seashells/stones will be in their home as a reminder of all who were present today at their wedding and it will hold your good wishes for them.

Option 6: (write your message on the stone)

___ and ___ are deeply grateful for each and every one of you here today. You all hold a place in their hearts reserved for those that they have chosen to call "Family" and "Friend" and because of this they would like to ask you to participate in the blessing of their union with a special seashell ceremony. As you leave the ceremony If each of you could take a stone and with the pen write a special blessing that you wish for the couple and their marriage on the shell-such as; joy, love, God's blessings, Happiness, Health, trust...and place your stone in the special keepsake container. This container (or vase) of stones will be in their home as a reminder of all who were present today at their wedding and it will hold your good wishes for them

Option 7: (with unity sand ceremony)

Officiant to couple: _____ and _____, today you join your separate lives together. The two separate vessels of sand symbolize your separate lives, separate families and separate sets of friends. They represent all that you have been as an individual. They also represent your lives before today. As these two vessels of sand are poured into the third vessel, the individual vessels of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual vessels, so will your marriage be. (Pause to allow time for couple to fill vessel, alternately pouring sand to form a layered design)

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As you arrived you were given a seashell. As you hold this shell in your hand think of a blessing that you wish for the couple, for their marriage, such as joy, love, happiness, health, trust... I will now ask that everyone please take out the shell you have been given and pause to make a wish or blessing for happiness and good will for the couple and for the future of their marriage. (Allow time for reflection)

Officiant to guests: _____ and _____ invite each of you to come forward and place your shell into the unity sand vessel they have created. They will place this special keepsake in their home as a reminder of this celebration here today, and the presence of their loved ones as they became husband and wife.

(Allow time for guests to place shell in vessel) *Idea: this is a nice time for the bride and groom to give a hug or a handshake to each guest after they place their shell and return to their seats)*

OR

Officiant to guests: Following the ceremony, _____ and _____ invite you to please place your shell back into the unity sand vessel, which will be located on the _____. They will place this special keepsake in their home as a reminder of this celebration here today, and the presence of their loved ones as they became husband and wife.

Option 8: (without unity sand ceremony)

Officiant to guests: _____ and ____ are deeply grateful for each and every one of you here today. You all hold a place in their hearts reserved for those that they have chosen to call "Family" and "Friend" and because of this they would like to ask you to participate in the blessing of their union with a special seashell ceremony.

As you arrived you were given a seashell. As you hold this shell in your hand think of a blessing that you wish for the couple, for their marriage, such as joy, love, happiness, health, trust... I will now ask that everyone please take out the shell you have been given and pause to make a wish or blessing for happiness and good will for the couple and for the future of their marriage. (Allow time for reflection)

Officiant to guests: Following the ceremony, _____ and _____ request you to please place your shell back into the vessel/vase/bowl located on the _____. They will place this special keepsake in their home as a reminder of this celebration here today, and the presence of their loved ones as they became husband and wife.