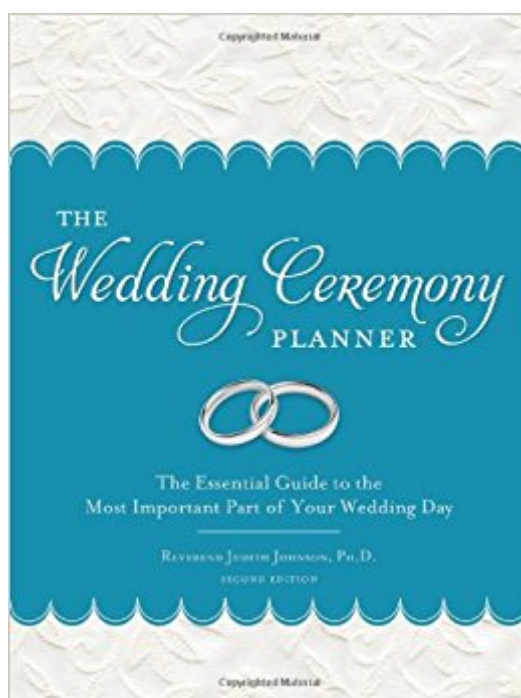


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# The Wedding Ceremony Planner: The Essential Guide To The Most Important Part Of Your Wedding Day



## Synopsis

The only comprehensive guide for planning your ceremony, your way! Offering an abundance of elegant and heartfelt choices for ceremony elements, ten full sample ceremonies, and often-overlooked logistics, this is the absolute essential guide for anyone designing a wedding ceremony. Expert guidance helps you tailor your ceremony to your situation and beliefs. Includes downloadable text options and worksheets for ultimate convenience. Praise for The Wedding Ceremony Planner: "Weddings are sacred acts surrounded by material hoopla. The Wedding Ceremony Planner clarifies the worldly issues but keeps the spirit central. It's the balance that every couple needs." — Marianne Williamson, author of The Gift of Change "With countless samples of ceremony segments and worksheets to put them all together, The Wedding Ceremony Planner affirms what we all hope for: to communicate our love in a clear, heartfelt manner that truly reflects who we are." — Jack Canfield, coauthor, Chicken Soup for the Bride's Soul® "Erased any jitters I had and replaced them with the perfect plan...I will recommend it to both officiants and couples alike." — customer review

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An excellent resource. Not only does she help with contextualization, but she also provides real life examples." - San Francisco Bay Times

Judith Johnson holds a doctorate in social psychology and is an ordained ecumenical minister, honoring all religious and spiritual traditions. She has officiated at hundreds of weddings over the

past 14 years.

As a wedding officiant, I have purchased many ceremony planning books over the years. This has become my "go to" book, especially for couples who want a more secular (rather than religious) ceremony. I recently purchased the newest edition in the Kindle version, which comes with downloadable pdf files of the example verbiage for different parts of the ceremony. This makes it easier to email suggestions back and forth to the bride and groom. I can't recommend this book more highly.

What an excellent resource for anyone composing a wedding ceremony! I made extensive use of 'The Wedding Ceremony Planner' last spring while crafting the ceremony for my friends' wedding: the first one I've officiated. You can trawl the Internet for sample ceremonies and advice, but I found it very convenient to have all of that in one compact book. Dr. Johnson provides a wonderful array of options for each section of the ceremony, including the gathering words, the declarations of support and intent, and the vows. There are also recommendations for music and readings, as well as scripts for popular traditions, such as the lighting of a unity candle or vows to the couple's children. (Unfortunately, Dr. Johnson does not include any language for handfasting, which she dismisses as a misappropriation of a betrothal custom. That may be, but it is still a lovely ritual, and it has a longer history than the unity candle.) The book describes marriage as a spiritual commitment, but it does not promote any religious agenda, and it is perfectly relevant to a nonreligious wedding (as was the case with my friends' wedding). I was impressed with Dr. Johnson's clear and sensitive advice, based on years of experience as an officiant. Our rehearsal would have been much more intimidating without her list of tips! I only have a few real criticisms of this book. The first is that the sample texts are a bit difficult to navigate. One section follows the last on the same page, making the book hard to browse. It would be better to start each section of the ceremony on a new page, and to indicate the topic of each page with headings next to the page number. However, with some Post-Its, I was able to divide the book into its various sections and make it easier to find the parts I wanted. Furthermore, it would be nice if this book were written with gender-neutral language, instead of defaulting to the titles "bride" and "groom." More and more same-sex couples are gaining access to marriage, and many of them are eschewing traditional ceremonies in favor of original ones. 'The Wedding Ceremony Planner' would be a great resource to any couple, and inclusive language would make it a more pleasant read for LGBTQ people. I plan to use this book again if I ever have the honor of conducting another wedding ceremony. I recommend it highly!

This book is very helpful for anyone who is writing their own wedding vows and/or planning their wedding ceremony. It is very helpful and has nice spreadsheets that you can use along with it. There were a lot of different aspects that may have been looked over in ceremony planning had we not got this book!

I found this book extremely helpful. We also needed a ceremony without any God references, and this got us 95% of the way there. We mixed and matched sections, revamped a couple sentences that still included the "G" word, incorporated personal vows and readings and - ta da - a personal ceremony with just 2 evenings' work. Our most frequent compliment from guests was how personal and meaningful the ceremony was. "A two kleenex-er", according to one guest. Most importantly, it was meaningful and sacred for us, and 100% true to our beliefs. Well worth the effort.

Exactly what we needed. We wanted to put together our own non-religious wedding ceremony and vows but not actually write new content ourselves. We took sections and phrases from all over the book and built our own perfect ceremony. Our wedding would not have been the same without it! If you want to create your own ceremony but want guidance and many options this is the book for you!

This book was SO SO SO helpful to me when we were writing our ceremony. I loved all the script examples for each part of the ceremony and the thorough explanation of each ceremony part and how they come together. I would recommend this book to anyone writing their own ceremony.

The Wedding Ceremony Planner is an excellent resource with many examples of each part of the ceremony. With this book as a guide, you will easily cover many aspects of the ceremony and be able to provide the bride and groom with relevant options and variations to make their wedding day memorable and unique. The book also contains great advice for beginners.

Overview: I read through this book yesterday afternoon and was successfully able to piece together my entire ceremony within a few hours. The first part of the book is an overview of wedding ceremonies, who participates, etc. Much of this section was common sense, but it can be helpful to have a reminder to check obvious things when you're as frazzled as I am. The second section of the book is the sections of the wedding ceremony and examples. There is a good range of styles for

each section of the wedding, from short and informal to quoting saccharine poems at each other... and the range from devoutly religious to entirely dodging the topic. Examples for second/mature weddings, weddings with children, etc. are included. I had our vows picked out before purchasing this book, but I used passages from this book for every other part of the wedding. I love how our ceremony transitions smoothly from the introduction through the prayers, vows, ring exchange, etc. The flow of my ceremony would have been much poorer using only internet sources. The most helpful part for me was the section of ten example weddings, which shows how the author fits the ceremony together. Pros: It's thorough without being long-winded. Good selection & range of examples. Quality vs. Quantity Cons: Quality vs. Quantity. There are good examples, not hundreds of them. I was able to find many that I loved, but not everyone will. I noticed that the lack of suggestions for working in the giving away of the bride... I googled that part ;)

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