

# Temple Shabbat Shalom Wedding Worksheets:

## The Door Opening to Forever The Intensest Rendezvous: Final Draft

1. Entrance (Discuss Order and geography, Chuppah, Circles, Candles etc.)
  - A. Presentation of bride and groom
  
2. Introductions
  - A. Clergy
  - B. Invocation
  - C. Sign of Peace
  - D. Welcome All
  - E. Welcome Bride and Groom
  
3. Acknowledging loved ones not present.
4. *Bedeken* and blessing of bride and groom (A, B, C, D, E, F)
5. Kiddushin
6. Readings (Recommended 1. The Greatest Commandment)
  - A. Genesis
  - B. Song of Songs
  - C. Ruth
  - D. Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - E. Corinthians
  - F. Poetry
  - G. Music
  
7. Vows
  - A. Community
  - B. Traditional
  - C. Creative
  - D. Circles
  - E. Ketubah
  
8. Rings
  - A. Hebrew
  - B. English
  
9. Blessings
  - A. Seven
  - B. Concluding
  
10. Breaking of Glass

# 1: Candle Readings

From every person glows a light that reaches straight to heaven. When two souls destined to be together find one another, their unified light flows together into a single brighter light that illuminates our world. (Baal Shem Tov)

One light to Remember, one light to Observe. Each represents our individuality, our family, and community. Our God, and God of our ancestors, we pray for your blessings of unity.

God said, Let there be light, and there was light! In our creating of light we elevate ordinary time to sacred time. Kiddushin. This is a wedding.

## 1A: Presentation of bride and groom

Who stands with this bride/ groom, the family and traditions from which s/he comes?

Family and those standing up for bride and groom respond: We do.

## 1.B Circles:

First: *L'OLAM*-Forever

Second: *B'ZEDEK*- Righteousness

Third: *B'MISHPAT*- By Law

Fourth: *B'CHESED*- And by Loyal love

Fifth: *B'Rachameam*-And in rebirth

Sixth: *B'Emunah*- In faithfulness

Seventh- *V Ya da it Adon eye*- And in all this encompass the divine.

**2A: Introduction of Clergy: An officiators reading (Plato's Symposium) : Humans have never really understood the power of love. If they had they would surely have built noble Temples and Altars and offered solemn sacrifices to love, which is our best friend, and helper, and healer.**

**2B: The Invocation:)** (Before we begin, a reminder that this ceremony, in its essence, contains private words addressed to you in public!)

Hebrew, formal, *Baruch haba* Welcome All, in the name of our Awesome Blessed Creator, Divine, Eternal, Lord our God. We declare this ceremony a binding covenant of devotion, everlasting fidelity, genuine happiness, increasing joy, kindness and love.

**May this invocation proclaim: Those in Love are wise, and becoming ever wiser!**

**Emily Dickenson: I dwell in Possibility- a fairer House than Prose-More numerous of windows, superior-for Doors- Of chambers as the Cedars- Impregnable of Eye- And for an everlasting Roof- The Gables of the Sky- Of visitors -the fairest For occupation This - The spreading wide my narrow hands- To gather Paradise.**

**Or**

**Wallace Stevens poem The Intensest Rendezvous**

**And:**

**May the Lord our God who is above all, who blesses all, transcendent yet concerned with all, bless this groom and bride.**

**:**

**Or: May the One, above all, a loving God, infinite and majestic, yet concerned with every creature, Bless this groom and bride.**

**Or: May The One Supreme in majesty, beyond all praise and infinitely great, bless this woman and man who now enter into marriage.**

**Or: We see the Splendor, Blessing and Image of our Creator reflected in the radiance of this bride and groom**

**2C: Sign of Peace**

This is a celebration of love. We ask you to take the hand of your loved one if they are next to you, think of them if they are not here, and to dream of them if they are yet to be.

## **2D: Welcome to All (invited guests and family)**

Welcome to each and every one of you. Our hearts are glad for there is a time and purpose for all that matters upon this earth. This is the time to celebrate the wedding of (bride and groom). Confirming this covenant of love we welcome everyone to laugh and cry, feast and reflect. We all rejoice in this love and acknowledge all that love promises by responding with one voice: Amen.

## **2E: Welcoming bride and groom**

Shalom and welcome lovely bride, beloved groom. This is your day! You have chosen one another for a life together, forever.

You (helped) create(ed) this ceremony, together choosing the words that that open to a lifetime of shared love and commitment.

The spirit that you pour into the rituals of living defines how your love will be special, unique, and holy.

This, the Poet W.B Yeats explains is how innocence and beauty are born.

## **3: Acknowledging Loved Ones not present.**

### **4 A: Bedeken and blessing of bride and groom: Blessing of bride**

Beloved bride we unveil this vision for you and all to see:

*Acotanew at ha yee le alfay reveva:*

May you be the mother of uncountable children.

The Hebrew blessing of Rebecca in Genesis: A vision of her children and their children and their children's children. A vision of your children...And completing this insight, tying this moment to the past. We bless you with the blessings of our matriarchs:

May your life be filled with:

- The laughter and love of Sarah
- The vision of Rebecca
- The modesty and radiance of Rachel
- And the kindness of mother Leah

#### **4B: The threefold blessing of peace of Aaron for bride and groom**

- *Yevarechecha adoneye vayishmarecha*  
May God bless you both,guarding over all you do
- *Ya air adon eye panev a lech ah v chu nech ah*  
May Gods light guide all that you do with grace
- *Ye sa adon eye panav a lech ah va yah same lechem/lecha shalom*  
May the fact of your shared love open your eyes to a vision of your Creator

#### **4C: Blessing for the groom**

- May God make you a parent of many like Abraham
- May God inspire you with the awe of Isaac
- May you triumph in every struggle like Jacob who God called Israel
- May you have the wealth and worldliness of Joseph for in his children's name we bless our children.

#### **4D: With this in mind we bless you both with the traditional blessing:**

Adear elohaynewSea man tov u mazel tov (Sing)

Which means:

Dear God

This is good

This place, this time, this marriage

Have your blessings.

Even the stars in heaven declare

Mazel tov. Congratulations

**4E:** Peace on Earth begins with Peace in the Home. Peace in the Home is found in a relationship without walls and without secrets. Peace in the home begins with joy and contentment. The cup of blessings receives the wine of joy. May you drink deeply from that cup, and may it be always overflowing. We set this scene today so that you may experience the joy of today every day. Tradition invites you to have your honeymoon every week. Every Sabbath eve we stand for the bride. Every Sabbath this table is set, the candles lit, the wine poured and the invitation sent by God to remember and observe the Sabbath. A honeymoon every week.

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**4F:** One final teaching as we stand here beneath this chuppah, this canopy of Peace. In the first verse of the first book of the Torah we read:  
In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
This sketch of your future home reminds us: The rest is up to you.

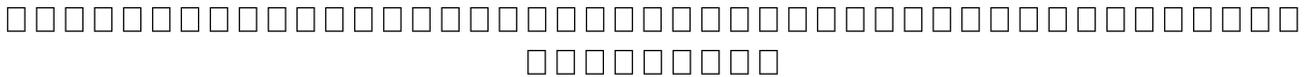
**5: Kiddushin  
Hebrew Blessing**

Lord our God; we thank you for all of creation  
And for this wine  
Symbol of our joy.

May we all experience  
The renewal of our own covenants and vows  
Through the encounter with Loyalty and Love  
That is a wedding  
May we understand your deep truths and the meaning of marriage  
As we share this wine of sacrament. Amen

**6: Readings**

**1: Reading: The greatest commandment Deuteronomy six and Leviticus 19:18**



**Hear O Israel the Lord Our God the Lord is One**

**Love the Lord your God, with heart and with soul and with your very being.  
These words are revealed today, so take them to heart.  
Teach them to your children, in every room in your home  
and when you go for a walk, and every morning and evening.  
Bind these teachings to your hands and do them,  
focus your minds eye. Write all of this on every doorpost of every room in your home, and on  
every gate.  
(Leviticus 19:18)**

**...and Love your neighbor as yourself. I am God.**

## Homily

Greatest commandment in both traditions, Focus on the home, Define neighbor A love song for the home, Prayer for the homily.

### Genesis

- 1.) And God said; Let us make Adam in our image. So God created Adam, male and female, and God blessed them, and said to them: Fill the Earth, replenish, and gently rule. Moreover, God saw all that had been created this day, and said: "This is very good."

### Version two

- 2.) And God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and took one of his sides then closed up the place, and made women.  
And the man said; flesh of my flesh!  
This is why a man leaves his parents and cleaves to his wife!

### 6B: Song of Songs

Interpretive translation by Rabbi Alpern

The Song of Songs  
Of bride and groom:  
Ani ladodi v dodi lee  
I am now my beloveds  
And my beloved is now mine.

Awakening to one another  
We set our distinctive seal  
Upon each other's hearts.

Like two doves  
Two lovebirds  
Our hands and hearts are one.

**This love is forever.  
A passion for all time.**

**Bride and groom,  
Woman and man,  
We spark off one another,  
Each a flame,**

**In the eternal fire,  
That is love.**

## **6C: A Reading from the Book of Ruth- Chapter One**

### **6D: Psalm Two**

**Be Happy Beloved bride, beloved groom  
You are beginning the Ascent  
Love a rising  
This is the blessed day**

**This wedding a giving and a receiving  
The Day, A Day of atonement  
At this moment-one  
All is forgiven**

**The key teaching from Zion:  
You are God's children  
One family  
One people  
Upon my Land.**

**So Trust in the Lord  
Rejoice with trembling as you witness**

**Loving one another you love God**

**Place this teaching in the opening Ark  
Of your heart**

## 6E: A Reading from the first letter of *Paul* to the *Corinthians*

Establish eye contact. Like a kind

Teacher.

Rising energy.

Don't stress "I" in any sentence

A bit faster.

Slower.

A bit faster.

Slower again,

Stress is on what love does and

Doesn't do, not on "love."

Imagine "patience", "kindness",

"anger", etc., as you read.

Remember eye contact.

Pause before final line.

A three-word summary.

Set your *hearts* on the *greater* gifts.

I will show you the way which *surpasses* all the others.

If I speak with *human* tongues and *angelic* as well,  
but do not have *love*,

I am a noisy gong, a *clanging* cymbal.

If I have the gift of *prophecy*

and, with *full* knowledge, comprehend *all* mysteries,

if I have *faith* great enough to *move* mountains,  
but have not *love*,

I am *nothing*.

If I give *everything* I have to *feed* the poor

and *hand* over my body to be *burned*,

but have not *love*,

I *gain* nothing.

*Love* is *patient*; love is *kind*.

Love is *not* *jealous*, it does not put on *airs*,  
it is not *snobbish*.

Love is *never* *rude*, it is not *self-seeking*,

it is not prone to *anger*,

neither does it *brood* over *injuries*.

Love does not *rejoice* in what is *wrong*

but rejoices with the *truth*.

There is no *limit* to love's *forbearance*,

to its *trust*, its *hope*, its power to *endure*.

*Love* never *fails*.

The *word* of the Lord.

## **6F: Walt Whitman**

**This is what you shall do: Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to every one that asks, stand up for the stupid and crazy, devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God, have patience and indulgence toward the people, take off your hat to nothing know or unknown or to any man or number of men, go freely with powerful uneducated persons and with the young and with the mothers of families, read these leaves in the open air every season of every year of your life, re-examine all you have been told at school or church or in any book, dismiss whatever insults your own soul, and your very flesh shall be a great poem and have the richest fluency not only in its words but in the silent lines of its lips and face and between the lashes of your eyes and in every motion and joint of your body...**

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**6F2: A Writing by George Eliot**

**WHAT GREATER THING  
IS THERE  
FOR TWO HUMAN SOULS  
THAN TO FEEL THAT THEY ARE JOINED FOR LIFE-  
TO STRENGTHEN EACH OTHER  
IN ALL SORROW,  
TO MINISTER  
TO EACH OTHER IN ALL PAIN,  
AND TO BE  
WITH EACH OTHER  
IN SILENT  
UNSPEAKABLE MEMORIES**

## 6G: Music

### 7: VOWS

- A.) 1. Community we do
7. Traditional: Do you \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ take one another
- B.) 3. I (groom) take you (bride) for my wife. ( Then I bride take you groom) for my husband
- To have and to hold
- From this day forward
- For better or for worse
- For richer or poorer
- In sickness and in health
- For as long as we both shall live.

#### Creative

- C.) Will you give one another your hands and heart in marriage? We will  
Will you give your love more precious than money? We will  
Will you give your love above preaching or law? We will  
May you travel together and stick by each other  
For as long as you live. Amen

#### Prophetic (Circles)

- D.) 1. I marry you forever  
2. I marry you with righteousness  
3. I marry you by the law of grace  
4. I marry you with loyalty and love

5. I marry you with mercy
6. I marry you with justice
7. We are married, and in this know God.

7E.) Ketubah

# ק'ק שבת שלום

*This Ketubah*

ב"י

<i>A</i>	אדיר
<i>Binding</i>	ברוך
<i>Covenant of</i>	גדול
<i>Devotion</i>	הגול
<i>Everlasting</i>	על
<i>Fidelity</i>	הכל
<i>Genuine</i>	יברך
<i>Happiness</i>	את
<i>Increasing</i>	החתן
<i>Joy</i>	ואת
<i>Kindness and</i>	הכלה
<i>Love</i>	

אדיר אלהינו

*In the name of our*

*Awesome*

*Blessed*

*Creator*

סימן טוב ומזל טוב

*This is good*

*This Bride & Groom.*

*have your blessings*

*The stars in heaven declare Mazel Tov*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bridegroom \_\_\_\_\_ Bride

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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8: Rings- Rabbi

The Groom says to the Bride:

*Ha-rei at m'ku-deh-shet li  
B'ta-ba-at zo k'dat mo-sheh  
V'yis-ra-el.*

By this ring you are consecrated to me according to the traditions of Moses and Israel.

The Bride says to the Groom:

*Ha-rei a-ta m'ku-dash li  
B'ta-ba-at zo k'dat mo-sheh  
V'yis-ra-el.*

By this ring you are consecrated to me according to the traditions of Moses and Israel.

(Optional)

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe: You sanctify Your People Israel under the sacred marriage canopy.

## 9: The Blessings

### A.) Seven Blessings (Option One):

1. Lord our God, thank you for creating the fruit of the vine.
2. Lord our God, your glory fills this moment.
3. Lord our God, we thank you for creating us male and female.
4. Lord our God, we thank you for this wedding and your image reflected in this union.
5. May the world rejoice in your children.
6. Lord our God, may the bride and groom always rejoice in one another.
7. Lord our God, we thank you for joy and laughter, bride and groom, delight, song, pleasure, peace and friendship. May the world soon come to experience the joys of this wedding.

### A.) Seven Blessings (Option two):

1. Parents of the groom.  
*We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe. Creator of the fruit of the vine.*
2. Parents of the bride.  
*Praised be the One whose glory we find in all that we behold.*
3. Grandparents.  
*Praised be the Creator of human kind.*
4. Siblings.  
*Praised be our God, Creator of woman and man, a single human fabric woven of love. You made us in Your image, Your own likeness, and we give thanks and praise.*
5. Bridesmaids.  
*You have filled Zion's mouth with song: her children have come back to her with joy! We give Thanks to the One who gladdens Zion through her children.*
6. Groomsmen.  
*To these Your children, by love made one, all delight and gladness give. Renew their lives; Refresh their hearts, show them both the joy of Eden. Eternal God, we praise You, for You cause man and woman to rejoice in marriage.*
7. All.  
*We give thanks for joy and gladness, happiness and exaltation, love and harmony, peace and friendship. Speedily let there be heard in streets of Jerusalem and the cities*

*of Judah, in earth's four corners, the cry of joy and the shout of gladness, the tender song of woman and man, the happy sounds of the wedding feast. Praised be the One who cause woman and man to rejoice in marriage.*

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## **9B: Concluding Blessing**

### **A Meditation by Rabbi Baruch ben Sirach**

**The ultimate pleasures for the soul are three in number**

**For they are awesome to God, and of ultimate good for Humanity:**

**First:**

**Harmony and Peace in the Home.**

**Peace on Earth begins with Peace in the Family.**

**Second:**

**Neighbors who love one another.**

**In all true ritual and prayer**

**We love God by loving one another**

**Third: A couple suitable for one another.**

**You have found one another**

**Now you are married**

**Let this be**

**Your greatest pleasure**

**And joy.**

## 10: The Breaking of the Glass

Perhaps the best know Jewish wedding tradition is the breaking of the glass. Many explanations are offered for this custom. Everyone is expected to shout a heartfelt Mazel Tov, so we begin with the true meaning of the words. *Mazel* means star or constellation. *Tov* means Good. This translates to: we affirm that heaven and earth declare that all we have experienced today is good, providential.

### Traditional explanations:

- 1.) Temple in Jerusalem
- 2.) Talmudic story about charity and rejoicing

### Modern Explanations:

A.) Nothing that has a soul is perfect. This insight is shared by all cultures and religions.

- In Japan Zen gardeners leave one giant weed in the middle of a Perfect Garden, a dandelion.
- In Persia the most perfect Persian Rug always contains an Imperfection... The Persian flaw.
- Native Americans include a broken bead in a necklace that is a Masterpiece.
- In our tradition we left a part of one wall unpainted in remembrance of the Temple. With the breaking of the glass we all shout Mazel Tov, and reflect on all this.

**Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering**

**There is a Crack; A Crack in Everything  
That is how the light gets in.**