

The Sand Ceremony with Children

The sand ceremony is a visual representation and a rite of passage for the two parents and their children, either blended family or birth family, to demonstrate they are now one family bound in love and community. Each family member will pour their own vial of sand into one container to symbolize the joining of each person as one family. They retain their individuality but they also embrace their new togetherness.

The sand chosen could be collected from a special location that holds meaning to the family – their first holiday or a favourite local destination if they live close to the sea. Sand in different colours can also be purchased from Amazon. Each child can then choose their own colour. A unity jar that will hold the family sand can also be purchased from Amazon or else a special clear glass jar can be sourced. The jar could be heart-shaped and decorated with a family picture or inscribed with everyone's names. The date of the wedding can also be inscribed. The sand can be poured from a glass vial or else keeping the sand in a receptacle and using a seashell to pour it.

The Minister can say one of the following scripts or else write something personal with the family members. Perhaps each child and parent could say what special gift they each bring to the family and also what special gift they receive in turn from their new family. These sayings can be as little as one word or a little more depending on the age and understanding of the children. These can be spoken as the sand is poured.

TO THE PARENTS

Parents, today you are making a life-long commitment to share the rest of your lives with each other and honour your children as well. Your family relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these individual containers of sand; one, representing all that you are, and all that you will ever be.

Now pour your sand together. (Each parent then pours the sand and says a few words as previously chosen.)

The gathering of this new family will have a deep influence upon the children. To create a happy home, love and understanding are essential. As you pour the sand

know that just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual container, so will your marriage and your family be together.

TO THE CHILDREN

Each of you are now a resource into which, as family members, you may come to, throughout your life times, for direction, meaning, and love.

Your Parents strive to provide not only the basic needs, but a nurturing and loving environment in which each of you find the confidence to reach the highest goals of your hearts, minds, and spirits. You are now part of a family that will provide you with guidance and love.

AFTER THE SANDS ARE POURED TO THE NEW FAMILY

Do you each accept the responsibility of being an important part in the building of this family, and to forever contribute your best efforts to maintain the closeness and strength?

If so, say, "We do."

AN ALTERNATE SCRIPT FOR THE SAND CEREMONY WITH CHILDREN

Today as _____ and ____ have sealed their commitment to each other with the exchange of rings they to make a commitment to their children. We recognize the significant role that (all of children's names) play in this marriage celebrated today. They will now join _____ and ____ in this commitment to each other by contribution a part of each individual person into one blended family. Today, this relationship is symbolized through the pouring of this sand, each representing a member. As each individual's sand is poured into the family's one united container, the individual containers 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 containers, so will become the bond with your family. From this day forth, you shall be more than one couple or two individuals – you shall be a loving and united family. You are a family drawn together by love and held together by devotion

ANOTHER ALTERNATE SCRIPT FOR THE SAND CEREMONY WITH CHILDREN

Sand Ceremony: Blended Family

(Bride and Groom) have bound their lives together as a couple. Each also brings very important gifts to their union. We celebrate and acknowledge the importance of their children as they all come together to build a family.

The couple will first pour their sands into the vase, showing that their marriage is the foundation of this family. Their sands mix together and symbolize their bond of love and respect that can never be separated.

As their children (names....) now add their sands, we are reminded that though we are all different people. It is our unique personalities that add the beautiful color to the tapestry of the family. Like the sands of the bride and groom, so these sands will also blend. They represent the love each feel for all of these children.

(Bride and Groom) now seal the union with their sand that surrounds their children in an environment of unconditional love. May this family remain, not dependent upon one another, but interdependent and as colourful as the sands that fill this vessel.

TWO POEMS FOR A WEDDING

Love is a temporary madness,

it erupts like volcanoes and then subsides.

And when it subsides you have to make a decision.

You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part.

Because this is what love is.

Love is not breathlessness,

it is not excitement,

it is not the promulgation of eternal passion.

That is just being "in love" which any fool can do.

Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident.

Those that truly love, have roots that grow towards each other underground,
and when all the pretty blossom have fallen from their branches,
they find that they are one tree and not two.

from Captain Corelli's Mandolin by Louis des Bernieres

When two people are one in their inmost hearts,
They shatter even the strength of iron or of bronze.
And when two people understand each other in their inmost hearts,
Their words are sweet and strong, like the fragrance of orchids.

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2 readings/quotes for a funeral



Remember Me

To the living, I am gone.
To the sorrowful, I will never return.

To the angry, I was cheated,
But to the happy, I am at peace,

And to the faithful, I have never left.

I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.

So as you stand upon a shore, gazing at a beautiful sea – remember me.

As you look in awe at a mighty forest and its grand majesty – remember me. As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity – remember me. Remember me in your heart, your thoughts, your memories of the times we loved, the times we cried, the times we fought, the times we laughed.

For if you always think of me, I will never be gone. *Margaret Mead*



POEM #2

Everything you see has its roots in the unseen world.

The forms may change, yet the essence remains the same.

Every wonderful sight will vanish, every sweet word will fade,

But do not be disheartened,

The source they come from is eternal, growing,

Branching out, giving new life and new joy.

Why do you weep?

The source is within you,

And this whole world is springing up from it.”

~Rumi