

◇ Chapter 29
Choosing Marriage

Relationship Skills

UNDERSTAND COMPROMISE

Compromise in a marriage often begins with planning the wedding. Each partner may have a clear idea about what he or she wants, but these ideas may not be compatible. However, knowing the reasons behind the other person's wishes can help the two parties realize that their ideas are not as different as they thought.

Directions: Read the scenario below. Then, using your knowledge of relationship skills, answer the questions that follow.

Finding Common Ground

Robert and Joanna have been engaged for six months and are planning their wedding. However, Joanna's idea of what the wedding should be like is quite different from Robert's. Joanna wants a small, simple wedding outside in the public gardens where her parents were married. She wants to invite only close family and friends, and she thinks that she and Robert should write and recite their own wedding vows.

Robert, on the other hand, wants a big wedding. He comes from a large blended family and wants to invite his parents, siblings, and extended family members from both sides. He wants the ceremony to take place in the large cathedral that he and his family attend, and he thinks that he and Joanna should recite traditional vows.

Robert and Joanna's families are sharing the expense of the wedding equally. Neither feels right forcing his or her wishes on the other. Some of their ideas are so different, however, that they wonder if they can ever find a solution.

1. Why do you think it is important to Robert that the ceremony take place in his church?

2. Why might Joanna want to get married in the public gardens? _____

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3. Are there any similarities in the basic desires of each partner regarding the location of the ceremony? Explain.

4. Why might Joanna object to Robert's expanded guest list? _____

5. What might be Robert's reasons for inviting the additional guests? _____

6. What similarities do you see in each person's attitude toward the guest list? _____

7. Why do you think Robert wants to recite traditional vows? _____

8. Why do you think Joanna would prefer they write their own vows? _____

9. Would the feelings that the couple express be different if they wrote their own vows instead of reciting traditional vows? Explain.

10. On a separate sheet of paper, write a compromise plan for Robert and Joanna's wedding, including the wedding site, the guest list, and the recital of vows.

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