

Example Entrustment Ceremony Script 1

It is no accident that God has brought us together, for together we can accomplish what we could not do apart. Together we give this child the great necessities of life: the roots of security and the wings of opportunity. With hope in our hearts, we collectively offer a blend of security and nurture. It was love for children in general which put us on converging paths, and now it is our love for this unique child which unites us for the shared journey ahead.

We stand committed to our ideals. We believe that children have innate dignity. We are convinced that children ought never be viewed as possessions to be hoarded, but rather are best understood as gifts from God to be selflessly loved. We believe children need security and stability, and we recognize that they innocently depend on the adults in their lives for these comforts. We believe relationships thrive in an atmosphere of honesty and mutual respect. We recognize that if any one of us is diminished, we all are.

THEREFORE we pledge to:

1. Center on the child and elevate his or her interest above our own.
2. Be honest in all our interactions.
3. Take the time to consider situations from the perspective of others.
4. Protect the honor and reputation of the others in this relationship.
5. Consult each other before introducing new people to the arrangement.
6. Stay flexible and open to new possibilities.
7. Convey newly discovered medical information.
8. Be direct in the expression of feelings.
9. Consider mediation in the event of major misunderstanding or disagreement.
10. Consider sharing our experience for the benefit of others.

We make this pledge as an expression of love, integrity and good will. We ask God's blessing on our covenant.

Reference: <http://openadoptioninsight.org/>

Example Entrustment Ceremony Script 2

Today on the _____ we gather to honor and celebrate the union of these two families and the role each plays in _____ life. Today is a day of recognition, a day of welcome, and a day of blessing. Through the trials and joys, we gather together to mark the entrustment for this precious baby and thank the Lord for this gift of new life. _____, through prayer and confirmation; whose deep love for this baby directed her decision and plan. _____ and _____, who are assuming an important role and responsibility by lovingly giving their lives to raise, guide, and protect this little one, to be his/her enduring parents. The ones to whom God has chosen for her.

Today we celebrate the unique weaving together of nature and nurture. God had a plan and a purpose in creating such a beautiful human being with incredible potential. From the Purpose-Driven Life, Rick Warren reminds us: “regardless of the circumstances of your birth or who your parents are, God had a plan in creating you. It doesn’t matter whether your parents were good, bad, or indifferent. God knew that those two individuals possessed exactly the right genetic makeup to create the custom “You” he had in mind. They had the DNA God wanted to make you.” God’s word also reminds us of this truth in Psalms 139:13 “For You created me in my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” And in Colossians 1:16 “for in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.”

Sometimes tears are the only language we can speak at a time like this. They are an expression of both joy and sadness. Washington Irving said it best, “There is sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are messengers of overwhelming grief... and unspeakable love.” There is a reason for everything and just like an oyster is wired by its Creator to wrap its inmost being around unexpected pain to produce a beautiful pearl, everyone involved in this adoption process has wrapped their innermost beings- prayer, time, energy, blood, sweat, and tears- around this beloved baby.

(To the birthmother)

_____, you made a courageous decision to carry this baby. You committed yourself to seeking only the best in caring for him/her during your pregnancy and making sure his/her future needs will be abundantly met. With a great amount of love, thought, prayer, and confirmation from God, you have chosen _____ and _____ to be the parents of this adorable baby. Once you knew you were carrying a boy/girl, the name, _____ came to mind and stuck with you as a name for this little one (Meaning behind

name _____.) Long ago, his/her chosen parents had selected a name for their future daughter. _____, (Story why adoptive family chose name.) We welcome _____ into our lives.

_____, you have made great sacrifices for _____ and only the BEST for him/her. I know you have a few words that you'd like to say:

Do you promise to trust God and dedicate _____ to him?

Do you entrust _____ and _____ to be her parents?

Do you promise to love, pray, and make yourself available to _____ at any time for any reason be it emotional, physical, and medical, etc...?

We are all born into this world as helpless infants, dependent for life and growth upon the love and wisdom of our parents, that we may be nourished in body, mind, and spirit. Just so, every child should be received by loving arms and guided with understanding care.

Upon you the parents, rests the sacred joy of nurturing this young life through the years between birth and maturity. May you be guided by loving memories, worthy aspiration, joyful heart, and God's light and love. May your sense of responsibility be equal to the promise that is his/hers. May God enfold your family with your grace. May your home be a place of His presence, His forgiveness and His freedom. May his will be done in you and through you this day and forever. May He send forth abundant blessing on this child who is made in His image. We pray _____ will have the best home possible, one filled with faith, hope, and deep love. A home and parents who will love as much as _____ has been loved. Watch over and protect her forever and ever.

(To the adoptive parents)

Do you trust God and dedicate _____ to Him?

Do you promise to love and nurture _____ to the best of your ability, instructing her in the ways of a loving God?

Do you promise to assure _____ from day-one that she will never be forgotten and is loved dearly by her birth mom?

Do you promise to uphold the open adoption contract between you and _____?

In ancient times, whenever that nation of Israel experienced a miracle, they chose a special stone and called a “stone of remembrance.” It was to be a tangible reminder of God’s faithfulness in that particular time and place. In like manner, we can create a tangible reminder of God’s faithfulness in making this remembrance, not with stones, but with footprints. Let’s remember the times that led us to this place because there’s a time and season for everything. These little footprints are a genetic connection to _____ and _____ and a part of the body that will never change. They are like a shepherd’s unique marks on his sheep and a shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Also, let the sand symbolize this union and transition in the life of this newborn baby, whom you all dearly love, and whose life has forever entwined you all. For this child’s birth and adoption link together you once-separated families. Once merged, the separately colored grains of sand can never be separated, they are forever joined together to symbolize the two families coming together. The rings attached to the jars signify the eternalness and the perfection of God (An unbroken symbol of love.) Like the ring, God has no beginning and no end. Hebrews 13:8- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. May _____ know that the love for her is unending.

(At this time, footprints can be placed in books and sand poured into heart jars. Music chosen by birthmother may play.)

We never know just what’s ahead,
Decisions we should make,
Sometimes it’s hard to find, the courage
Or roads we ought to take.
But God, in all His wisdom,
Has a plan we’d never guess
If we but listen to His voice
And boldly answer, “Yes! “He gives sweet peace in trial,
Assurance when we pray,
A willingness to follow,
When we truly seek His way.
“Fear not, for I am with you”

He whispers to our hearts
When trouble threatens like a cloud
And dark confusion starts.
Expect the unexpected
God knows what to do
He has everything in His control
And He will see us through.
With faith, we'll walk on water
To fight the enemy.
Our God will have the glory
And we – the victory!
(-Anita A. Begley)

We're all members of one family, God's Family. God has brought you together and you have made special promises to each other, which have been symbolized by the footprints, sand, and rings,

_____ it's now time to place _____ into the arms of the parents you have chosen for him/her.

The two of you are the parents of this beloved little boy/girl, _____. Go with confidence, knowing that you are the parents, the ones responsible for her will being. Give to her a lifetime of special memories and remind her constantly of God's love.

If adoptive parents have closing word....

Ending prayer