



Title: Christian weddings in different cultures	Year: Years 3 and 4	Timing: 2/3 lessons
Links: CPE1 CRP1 CRP3		
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To know that weddings are an important part of Christian teaching• To be able to understand the concept of a promise and the ring as a symbol of that promise• To find out about some of the features of weddings in different cultures• To think about those aspects of weddings that are important to many people of different faiths and none.		
Questions for reflection: What is a promise? Why must a marriage take place in front of witnesses? Why do might people make promises in front of others. What are the symbols used in most weddings? Why do people wear special clothes for a wedding, and what different colours are used in different ceremonies?		
Activities and experiences: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Start with the word wedding on a large piece of paper and ask the children what they know about this ceremony. Note down their answers in blue marker and keep the paper for later.2. Read a version of the bible story 'The wedding at Cana', which can be found in the Gospel of John, chapter 2 and verses 1-11. Explain that reference is made to this event in the marriage service and discuss why.3. Find out about a Christian wedding in another culture, especially if there is anyone in your group whose family has relevant experience that they are willing to share. Otherwise, use books and the Internet.4. Find out about those aspects of weddings that are the same, including the bride and groom, witnesses, a priest and a ring. In RE books. Groups of children write down some information on one aspect that they can share with the other groups (use Jigsaw method of discussion).5. Talk about the ring that is a symbol of the couple's promises to love one another. Why are promises important to us, and what happens if they are broken?6. Make friendship bracelets for each other using long coloured pipe cleaners twisted together with coloured beads threaded through at intervals. Why do round or circular things remind us about promises?7. Choose one aspect that is different between a Christian marriage in the UK and in India e.g. colours of clothes, and discuss why different cultures might choose to celebrate the same ceremony in a different way. Assessment: Go back to the paper with which you started and ask the children to think about what they have learned about weddings. What do they consider to be the most important part of the wedding?		