

# **\*\*Preparing for Marriage Checklist\*\***

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## **\*\*1. Understanding Each Other\*\***

- \* **Discuss life goals:** Understand each other's aspirations and ambitions.
- Know each other's financial situation:** Discuss debts, assets, spending habits, and financial goals.
- Share family histories:** Be open about family dynamics, traditions, and expectations.

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## **\*\*2. Building a Solid Foundation\*\***

- Attend premarital counseling:** Learn to navigate potential challenges and strengthen your bond.
- Discuss children:** Talk about the desire to have kids, parenting styles, and timelines.
- Talk about roles in the relationship:** Understand expectations regarding chores, finances, career, etc.

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## **\*\*3. Financial Planning\*\***

- Create a joint budget:** Plan for daily expenses, savings, and future goals.
- Discuss joint or separate accounts:** Decide on the financial system that works for you both.
- Plan for future investments:** Talk about buying a home, investing, and retirement plans.

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#### **\*\*4. Conflict Resolution\*\***

- \*\*Identify triggers:\*\*** Recognize what might lead to disagreements and develop strategies to address them.
- \*\*Learn each other's communication style:\*\*** Understand how your partner expresses feelings and vice versa.
- \*\*Develop a system for resolving disputes:\*\*** This might include taking time-outs, having cooling-off periods, or seeking external mediation.

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#### **\*\*5. Family Planning\*\***

- \*\*Discuss family boundaries:\*\*** Set limits on family interference in your relationship.
- \*\*Talk about traditions:\*\*** Decide which family traditions you'd like to continue or create new ones together.
- \*\*Plan for extended family:\*\*** Discuss how often you'll visit or vacation with family and the role of grandparents in child-rearing.

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#### **\*\*6. Personal Growth and Independence\*\***

- \*\*Support individual hobbies and passions:\*\*** Ensure each partner has time to pursue personal interests.
- \*\*Discuss career aspirations:\*\*** Understand each other's career paths and potential relocations or changes.
- \*\*Promote individual friendships:\*\*** While shared friends are wonderful, each partner should maintain their friendships.

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#### **\*\*7. Intimacy and Connection\*\***

- Discuss physical intimacy expectations:** Understand each other's needs and boundaries.
- Plan regular date nights:** Maintain romance and connection throughout your marriage.
- Talk about ways to maintain emotional intimacy:** This could include regular check-ins, weekend getaways, or simply spending quality time together.

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### **8. Legal and Logistical Preparations**

- Discuss name changes:** Decide if either partner will change their surname post-marriage.
- Create a will:** Ensure clarity on asset distribution in case of unforeseen circumstances.
- Discuss medical decisions:** Make sure both partners are clear on preferences for medical emergencies.

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### **9. Setting Future Goals**

- Travel plans:** Where do you both dream of traveling to?
- Professional aspirations:** Discuss supporting each other through potential job changes or career milestones.
- Personal development:** Talk about classes, hobbies, or skills you'd like to acquire in the future.

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**Note:** Preparing for marriage is a deeply personal journey, and this checklist serves as a guide. It's essential to tailor the points to fit the unique dynamics of your relationship. Remember, open communication and understanding form the crux of a lasting bond.

