

10 Questions to Ask Before Getting Married

Our Parasha Haya Sarah brings us the story of Avraham sending his servant, Eliezer, to find the right wife for his son, Issac/Yitzhak.

This story contains the seeds for understanding how we should choose a spouse. It includes all the elements and guidelines for finding your mate. It also shares the recipe for living a good life together.

To place these lessons in modern terms, I found the following article from Aish HaTorah. The piece Heller is very informative and contains information that is good for both singles and married couples to know.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Hagay Batzri

10 Questions to Ask Before Getting Married

How to know you're ready to tie the knot.

by Rabbi Dov Heller, M.A

When you start thinking that he/she may be the one, make sure you ask these ten questions before you tie the knot.

#1: Do We Care about Each Other as Good Friends Do? When you're getting serious about someone, don't ask: "Are we in love?"

The question to first ask instead is: "Are we becoming good friends?"

"Being in love" often means infatuation, romance, and high chemistry – things that are essentially selfish. This type of "love" is not a good reason to get married, but friendship is. Friendship is not selfish. Real love is about giving to and caring about another person's life. As Shaya Ostrov says in his book, *The Inner Circle*, "I'm watching you, hearing you, paying attention to you. I've put it all together and have arrived at the conclusion that you and your life mean something to me." That's why the essence of real love is friendship.

In a Jewish wedding ceremony, the bride and groom are given seven blessings. Not once, but twice, we bless the couple that they should become "beloved friends." Make sure you're friends first and then lovers. A lover who is not your friend can easily hurt you. A friend who is your lover will never hurt you. And if they do, they will make every effort to repair the hurt, just like you do with your best friends. Friends care about each others' happiness & well-being.

#2: Are We Emotionally Honest and Vulnerable with Each Other? Two people who cannot be emotionally open with each other can never have true intimacy and love. When we share our feelings with another we connect and feel close to that person.

We tend to be afraid to share what we feel because expressing it makes us vulnerable; it's dangerous. With the person you're considering

KJ Schedule Parashat Chaye Sarah

Erev Shabbat

Friday, October 25th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	5:35 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting.....	5:49 pm
Minhah/Arbith	5:49 pm

Shabbat / Parashat Chaye Sarah

Saturday, October 26th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit.....	5:00 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah	6:45 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, October 27th

Shaharit.....	7:30 am
KJ Kids Sunday School	10 am to 12 noon

Monday to Friday, October 28th to Nov. 1st

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
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Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 1st

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	5:30 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting.....	5:42 pm
Minhah/Arbith	5:42 pm

marrying you must be sure you feel safe. How do you know if the two of you are emotionally open and honest? The next time you have a conversation with your partner, ask him or her, "What do you feel about me right now?" or, "How does what I just said make you feel?" If you can communicate like this with each other consistently, you have the potential for building an intimate relationship.

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#3: Do We Consistently Reach Win/Win Resolutions To Our Problems? To get married, you must be sure you have great communication. The reason is that marriage is nothing but problems! I know this doesn't sound very romantic, but it's very realistic. Couples often mistake good chemistry for good communication. Just because you can talk for hours on the phone and feel very connected, doesn't mean you have good communication.

The only way you know if you have good communication is when you have problems. When there is a disagreement of any kind, small or large, this is when you find out how good or how bad your communication is. The essence of good communication is that you can consistently reach win-win solutions to your problems and disagreements. This means when you are finished talking, both of you feel good about the solution. There are no bad feelings on either side.

Problems that don't get fully resolved turn into resentments. And when resentments build, love departs. The problem is not the problem. The communication about the problem is the problem.

#4: Do We Take Care of Each Other's Needs?

One of the most important principles of marriage is: If it's important to you, it's important to me. Taking care of each other's needs is about wanting to give each other pleasure. Being a giver is probably the most important character trait to have for getting married. People are naturally takers. It takes a great deal of effort to become a genuine giver. Giving in order to get something back is being a taker.

An important question to ask yourself is, "Do I enjoy giving to this person or do I find it burden-

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Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in honor of
The Bar Mitzvah of
Michael Ezer

by his grandparents
Suheila and Maurice Ovadia

Mazal Tov Michael on your Bar Mitzvah

Congratulations to your family
Stella & Omid, your parents
Mathew, Marc, & Sabrina, your siblings

Suheila & Maurice Ovadia and
Ghazi Ezer, your grandparents
and welcome to visiting family
Leyla, Suheil & Anthony Hanoon



David S. Kelly Youth Choir
Meets Sunday, November 3rd
Upstairs at Kahal Joseph
11:30 am

Readings: Shabbat Chaye Sarah

Torah: Genesis/Sefer Beresheet

Hertz edition pages 80 to 89

Haftara: Kings I / Melachim Alef

Hertz edition pages 90 to 92

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries for October 26th to November 2nd, 2013. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

22 Heshvan / Shabbat, October 26th
Khuzna Levi *Khuzna bat Esther HaLevi*

24 Heshvan / Monday, October 28th
Joseph Ezrapour *Yoseph ben Ezra*
Yaacov Moshe ben Eliyahu

25 Heshvan / Tuesday, October 29th
Charles A. Lelah *Salah ben Aharon*

27 Heshvan / Thursday, October 31st
Sumner Blank
Yehoshua Moshi *Yehoshua ben Moshe*
Nissim Rahamim Yaacov

28 Heshvan / Friday, November 1st
Moshe Bebe *Moshe ben Khadoori*
Ezekiel Howard *Yehezkel Howard*
Lulu Masliah *Lulu bat Salha*
Samuel Joseph Zachariah *Shmoel ben Yoseph*

29 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 2nd
Shaul Haim Nuriel *Shaul ben Haim*
Mary Saleh

Refuah Shlemah

Vera Levi

Joseph Sharaf / Yossef ben Jamila
Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha
Tilda Levy / Tilda bat Miriam
Pnina Herzbrun / Pnina bat Esther
Michael Herzbrun / Michael Baruch ben Sarah
Please renew each name listing every two weeks.
Names not renewed will be taken off the list. If you would like to add a member name to the list call 310-474-0559 or e-mail dafna@kahaljoseph.org

♥ Shabbat Shalom ♥

Wishing You a Peaceful Shabbat

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some?" Gary Chapman in his book, *The Five Love Languages*, suggests that each of us has a dominant love language or emotional need that makes us feel loved when another "speaks" that language to us. They are: gifts, quality time, acts of service, words of affirmation, and physical touch. What is your partner's love language? Do you enjoy taking care of this need? Giving builds love. Taking destroys it.

#5: Do We Admire And Respect Each Other?

We need to respect and admire the person we marry. We respect a person's good character, meaningful aspirations and goals he/she is committed to, and the good deeds he/she has done, not the way he/she looks.

How do you talk to each other? If you truly respect someone, you talk to that person with respect and dignity. Do you criticize or put each other down? Are you patient or impatient with each other? Do you make jokes about the other person in front of others and then try to cover it by saying, "I was only joking"?

One of the biggest ways that couples demonstrate a lack of respect for each other is by playing games. Playing games is immature and childish. Mature people who respect each other don't play games. They are consistently up front, open, and honest.

#6: For the Man: Are You Ready to Take Responsibility for a Wife and Family? When my three sons told me they wanted to get married, the first question I asked each of them was, "Are you ready to take on the responsibility of taking care of a wife and family?" If you're not ready to be fully responsible, you're not ready to get married. For a man marriage isn't about getting his needs met.

It's about taking on responsibility and being a giver. Judaism understands that the essence of being a man is to give and provide. Boys are takers; men are givers. Are you ready to be a man?

The strongest need of a woman is to be cherished. The three A's of cherishing a woman are: Attention, Affection, and Appreciation. Neglect destroys a woman's spirit. Making your wife feel loved and cherished is not just a nice idea; it's a Torah obligation.

#7: For the Woman: Do You Believe in Him?

Your man needs your respect and support. He needs you to believe in him. Men today are under so much pressure and so many demands are being made of them. The one place he doesn't need to feel more pressure is at home. He needs you to believe that he is trying hard to provide for you and the needs of the family.

The cruelest thing a wife can do is nag her husband. If he's a good man and he's trying hard, give him your love, not your list of demands. So before you commit your life to him, make sure you don't have any hidden agenda or unexpressed expectations. Be up front. And if you decide to be his wife, then be his friend as well. Don't turn on him.

#8: Do I Trust This Person Completely?

The emotional foundation of love is trust. Without complete trust, you can't build love. (I highly recommend Dr. John Gottman's new book, *The Science of Trust*.) The essential issue of trust is captured in the question, "Are you there for me?" A solid marriage is built on solid trust. Can I trust that you will provide a safe home for my feelings and needs? Can I be sure I can be vulnerable with you? Am I afraid you will abandon, reject, or shame me?

A key way to build trust is by respecting and validating another person's feelings. Listening to another person's feelings is one of the greatest acts of kindness we can perform. If you don't trust each other with your feelings, think twice about getting married.

#9: Do We Want the Same Things Out of Life?

One of two things happens in a marriage: People either grow together or grow apart. Spiritual compatibility is one of the best ways to insure you'll grow together. This means you are on the same page in terms of your values, priorities, and life goals. Rabbi Noah Weinberg, of blessed memory, would often teach that life's most important question is "What am I living for?" He maintained that until you can answer this question, you have no business getting married. A soul mate is a goal mate. Marriage is risky. Two people who don't know what they're living for may have a difficult time growing together and staying together over the long run.

#10: Do I Have Peace of Mind About This Decision?

To have peace of mind you have to identify and resolve the things that bother you about getting married or about marrying this person. To identify everything that bothers you, you must be ruthlessly honest with yourself and listen to your feelings. If you don't have peace of mind about marrying this person, track down the reason. If you are diligent, you'll discover the reason why you are dragging your feet. And if you can't track it down through your own efforts, see a competent therapist to help you.

KJ Children's Room Notice

We invite kids to our playground this Shabbat. When they need a little space, our child-friendly space is there. *Please note: Children are the responsibility of their parents while in the Kahal Joseph building, including the playground, at all times.*



To our dearest community members,

On behalf of the Israel Defense Force,

The Kelly family would like to welcome you to a dinner and evening of inspiration, in loving memory of David Kelly Z"l, a distinguished member of our community, and his relative Shlomo Dabora Z"l who served in the Palma" during the birth of the state of Israel.

The Israel defense force is excited to introduce a new project to the Kahal Joseph Congregation, in loving memory of David Kelly Z"l, and Shlomo Dabora Z"l.

The dinner is hosted by the Kelly family, and will take place on November 3rd, 2013 at the Kahal Joseph Synagogue, located on 10505 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Dinner will start at 5:00PM

RSVP is required by October 28.

Please call Hannie Kelly: 310-925-2123

Or email Malki Perla at: malhecker21@gmail.com

Donation of \$25 per person at the door



Rabbi Hagay Batzri, Ronald Einy and Safra Vesetfa Project

*Warm regards
Hannie Kelly and Family*

Sephardic Educational Center

Fall Lecture Series
with
Rabbi Daniel
Bouskila



**HAMSA Israel Teen Winter Break Trip
December 22, 2013 - January 5, 2014**

\$1800 - You pay the airfare, we cover the rest!

To apply, see SEC Hamsa Israel on Facebook!



**Fall Lecture Series with Rabbi Daniel Bouskila
Sephardim Today: Bridging Tradition & Modernity**

**Film Screening
*The Visionary:
The Life of Chief
Rabbi Ben Zion
Meir Hai Uziel***

October 29, 2013
Lecture at 7 pm

Jewish Federation
6505 Wilshire Blvd.
LA 90048



Errol Levi Social Hall & Ballroom

Did you know that Kahal Joseph has one of the most beautiful ballrooms on the Westside for your private event? Do you know that we have an

amazing, kosher catering kitchen? And a modern playroom for younger visitors? Do you know someone looking for a beautiful location for their special event? Let them know Kahal Joseph is available! KJ is fabulous for parties up to 200 guests. Contact Sarah Bouchoucha at [310.474.0559](tel:310.474.0559).



The Sisterhood's Annual Children's Hanukkah Party

**Sunday, November 24th
at 11:00 am**

Kahal Joseph Congregation

