

Edition #3
February

THE SUCCESS TEMPLATE

M A G A Z I N E

RESPECT
The Sanctity Of
Marriage

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Editor-In-Chief



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From the Editor

Every month, The Success Template Magazine is created with a theme that serves as the anchor for the articles published.

As the editor and publisher of the magazine, I feel blessed to share the amazing articles that talented writers submit.

Even though writing isn't their main focus or career path, some amazing work comes through those who give it their first try.



You never know where your breakthrough in life can or will come from, and it's normally in ways that you least expect it to. Sometimes we have hidden talents that we ourselves don't even know about, and being able to provide that platform where hidden passion, purpose, and talent can be discovered makes The Success Template magazine extra special.

Dear Future Wives, our very first anonymous writer had me in tears when I read her article. I hope that another sister in Christ is as touched with it as I was and that each article reminds you of the beauty of marriage and how sacred it truly is, so much so that we should always respect the sanctity of marriage.

Nadine van Rayner
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Respect The Sanctity Of Marriage

The holy covenant that God established as the union of two souls is highlighted from Genesis, the creation of man, throughout the entire Bible, to the end-time prophecy of the return of Jesus Christ written in Revelation.



That is how sacred the covenant of marriage is.

Women dream of their special day from a very young age, and even if it's something that you never thought about growing up, one day that desire to get married unlocks within you, and it can sometimes be overwhelming, especially when you have to wait a long time for your turn.

The Bible verse, "When the time is right, I the Lord will make it happen." - Isaiah 60:22 becomes like a mantra to you because you know that only God can truly make that desire of yours a reality and if you dare try to do things in your own strength you'll end up messing things up and you'll have to live with the consequences of your actions.



We're free to make our own choices, God gave us free will, but we're not free from the consequences of the choices that we make.

We live in a time where divorce is at an all time high. Things that our ancestors fought for, we take for granted today. Nothing is easy in life; being single is hard, and being in a relationship is also hard. We have the right to choose which hard we desire to face in life.



God Values The Sacred Covenant Of Marriage

Taking the *easy way out* isn't always the right choice to make, because the *easy way out* normally comes with the most difficult consequences to face and overcome.

God blessed us with free will, and He will never go back on His word, because God is not a man that He should lie. However, through those who came before us, He left us a blueprint, tips, and advice that will help us to be able to embark on the journey of joining together in union with each other.

The most important advice that you can ever remember as you plan your future moving forward is "Do not be unequally yoked." You can take a donkey to the well, but you can't make him drink.

God values the sacred sanctity of marriage so much that He linked the sacrifice that His only begotten Son made for humanity to the concept of marriage.

Written By: Nadine van Rayner





The Wedding Feast Of The Lamb

Then there came from the throne the sound of a voice, saying, "Praise our God, all his servants and all people, both great and small, who have reverence for him.


Then I heard what sounded like a large crowd, like the sound of a roaring waterfall, like loud peals of thunder. I heard them say, "Praise God! For the Lord, our Almighty God, is King! Let us rejoice and be glad; let us praise his greatness!

For the time has come for the wedding of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself for it.

She has been given clean shining linen to wear." (The linen is the good deeds of God's people.) Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Happy are those who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

And the angel added, "These are the true words of God." I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "Don't do it! I am a servant together with you and with your fellow believers, all those who hold the truth that Jesus revealed, Worship God!" For the truth that Jesus revealed is what inspires the prophets. - **Revelation 19:5-10**





*“Husbands love your
wives just as Christ
loved the church and
gave himself for it.”*

-Ephesians 5:25

Dear Future Wives

Marriage is a lifelong commitment between two people, and God is at the center of it going through life's inevitable storms and never giving up on each other, because love conquers all.

1Corinthians13

Planning a wedding can be extremely stressful, but what's keeping me going is knowing that God is in control and things always work out how they are supposed to. My dream was always to be a very successful Career driven woman, a wife, and a mother little did i know it takes so much more to turn that dream into a reality. Dealing with life's growing pains is crazy, but then again, going through difficult times makes us so much stronger. We might not realise it then , but sis! You are being shaped into a beautiful, wise woman, and even though you might fall, you always get back up stronger and wiser.



Becoming A Wife

Having a beautiful wedding is cool, but the reality lies within marriage and partnership. I understand that it can have a different meaning for all of us, but I truly believe that marriage is one of the most important contracts a person will ever have to sign in life.

I finally feel like I am ready to be a wife after all i feel like we as women has so much to offer this world, truly we are irreplaceable species. So to my future brides, aka wives, hang in there, girl, you'll get where you want to be, keep on praying God listens.

Love,
A Future Wife.





Be Equally Yoked

It's better to wait longer than to marry the wrong person.

Starting a life with someone who doesn't even know themselves yet, loves themselves, or knows what they want out of life, is a recipe for disaster and a life of headaches, anger, and resentment waiting to happen.

In school, a wise teacher said to us that the way you find a man when you marry him is the way that man will be during your marriage. Just because you got married doesn't mean that he will change, and getting married won't change him by default. Mr. Bosch gave me advice that I still carry with me to this very day.

The way I find him before marriage is the way he will be during our marriage. For that reason, make sure that the person you settle down with is someone that you will be able to accept for who they are in this moment in time, as well as in the future.

Whom they can become, and whom they will become. Those are two different aspects, and falling for potential isn't the best reason to be with someone because that person has the right to not step into the potential that you see in them, and that decision you will have to be able to live with.

That is why it is important to be equally yoked so that you both have all the qualities needed to build a healthy marriage together, because you're both already emotionally, mentally, and spiritually stable enough to enter into union with another human being.





Key Tips To Maintain Strenght In Your Marriage

Apologize - Be willing to admit mistakes and offer forgiveness.

Set Boundaries - Establish what is important to the both of you.

Show Appreciation - Daily gestures of kindness and gratitude strengthen the bond.

Prioritize Time - Intentionally make time for each other amid busy schedules.

— MARRIAGE BUILDING BLOCKS —

SUCCESS



Successful marriage building blocks include open communication, mutual trust, and deep respect serving as the foundation for a lasting partnership. Act as a team instead of rivals.

Key elements to building a successful marriage include unwavering commitment, shared goals, affection, and the ability to resolve conflict through empathy and forgiveness. Prioritizing time together and acting as a team strengthens your bond.

Key Building Blocks For A Successful Marriage:

- Communication
- Trust and Loyalty
- Mutual Respect
- Commitment
- Conflict Resolution & Forgiveness
- Shared Values & Goals
- Affection & Intimacy
- Kindness
- Teamwork & Unity





The roots of a family tree start with the love of two hearts.

When you're single and you have a deep desire to get married, that longing can sometimes get so overwhelming that you have to find something to anchor yourself in so that you will be able to go through life peacefully and not give in to that overwhelming feeling.

The best way to do that is to anchor yourself in building up your life and going after your dreams. Instead of feeling like you're missing out on something, you can pour your energy into something that will help you to grow and evolve in life.

You can work on yourself, physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. You can use your singleness season to grow and evolve as a person and to become the best version of yourself. That way, when you do meet someone that you are equally yoked with, the two of you will then be able to complement each other's lives and build something even more beautiful and secure together.



Marriage Doesn't Take Away From Your Success It Can Amplify It.

Marriage is often seen as a significant factor in a person's success, with many believing that a strong marriage can enhance one's career and personal life.

Marriage is something that shouldn't be taken lightly. It's not just about getting married so that you can say that you have someone.

A lot rides on making the right decision by marrying the person that you are equally yoked with instead of joining into a union unequally yoked and living your whole life miserable, and fighting for an inch of joy every single day of your life for the rest of your life, or until you divorce.

A broken, unhealthy, and imbalanced marriage equals the results of a broken, unhealthy, and imbalanced family.

Budgeting as a Married Couple: Turning Money Tension Into Teamwork

All relationships face challenges at some point. Disagreements happen. Tempers can flare. Egos may get involved. What matters isn't avoiding the hard moments – it's how you work through them. Sometimes the best way to take the edge off is to pause and remember that you're on the same team. This is especially true when it comes to money.



Combine & Unite Your Differences

While the other may be a spender who values flexibility and living in the moment. Neither approach is inherently wrong – but without communication and structure, those differences can quietly create tension over time.

When couples don't have a plan for their money, financial stress can turn into arguments, avoidance, or resentment. But with a clear plan in place, those same conversations become calmer, more productive, and centered on shared goals instead of stress.

BUDGETING AS A MARRIED COUPLE

Budgeting as a married couple isn't about control or restriction. At its core, it's about unity, trust, and shared direction.

A healthy budget creates space for meaningful conversations and allows couples to slow down and ask important questions:

- What matters most to us right now?
- What are we working toward together?
- How do we want money to support our marriage in a way that works for both of us?



Practical Ways Couples Can Get On The Same Financial Page

1. Make money a shared responsibility. Both partners should be involved in the budget, even if one person manages the details. Awareness creates alignment and helps everything run more smoothly.

2. Schedule regular money dates. Money conversations don't have to feel heavy. Treat them like a date — over coffee, dessert, or a glass of wine. Weekly or monthly, low-pressure check-ins help prevent overwhelm and avoidance.



3. Keep individual accounts alongside shared finances. A joint account for household expenses can work well, but it's also okay to maintain at least one separate account for yourselves. This isn't about secrecy — it's about security and independence. Personal spending autonomy often strengthens trust by creating balance instead of blame.



4. Be honest — especially about debt. Financial dishonesty can seriously damage trust. A strong financial partnership is built on transparency, not surprises.

5. Remember what a budget really is. A budget doesn't restrict you — it gives you clarity. It helps you focus your money on what matters most and stay in control instead of feeling controlled by it.

Budgeting works best when it's collaborative, not corrective.



Budgeting works best when it's collaborative, not corrective. When couples approach money as shared stewardship – without blame or keeping score – finances become less of a battleground and more of a tool.

Ultimately, financial freedom in marriage isn't about who's right or wrong. It's about alignment. When couples manage money together with intention, honesty, and grace, finances can support the life they're building side by side.

About the Author DeShena Woodard is a Financial Freedom Coach who helps busy women and couples build financial stability through clear, simple, and realistic money plans. She supports clients in budgeting, saving, and eliminating debt so they can create breathing room in their finances and develop money habits that last.



RESPECT THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE

THE JOURNEY TO UNION

CHERISH YOUR JOURNEY TO UNION & EMBRACE THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS THAT COMES WITH THE JOURNEY. YOUR WEDDING DAY IS THE START OF YOUR LIFELONG JOURNEY AS A COUPLE JOINED TOGETHER AS ONE. TAKE EVERYTHING THAT YOU LEARN IN YOUR PREPARATION SEASON AND APPLY IT IN YOUR UNION SEASON WHILE YOU OPEN YOURSELF UP TO LEARN NEW LESSONS ALONG THE WAY.



5 Things



A Man Needs Before He Finds A Wife

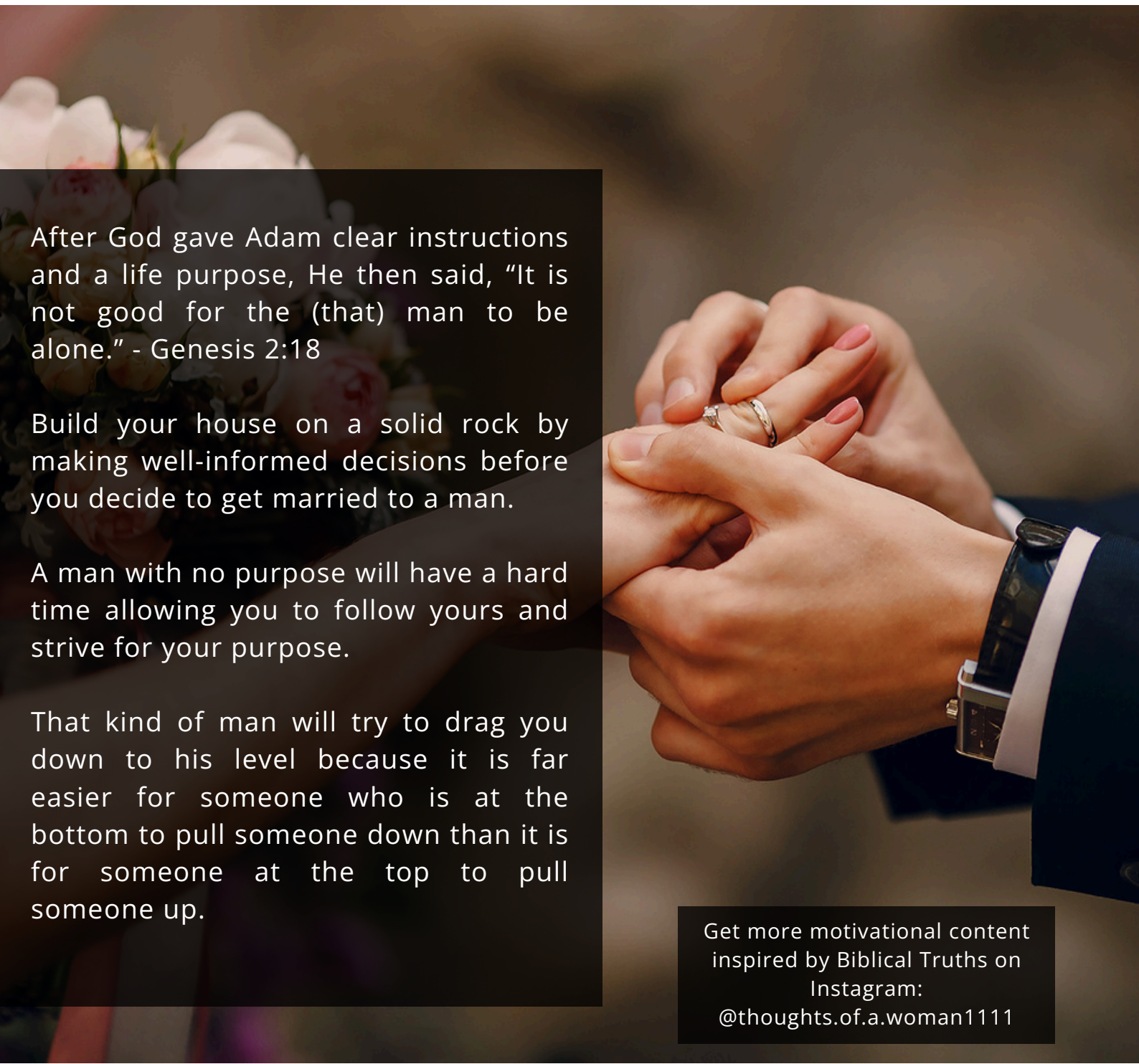
Dr. Myles Munroe said in one of his sermons that a man needs 5 things before he finds a wife, as per the Bible.

Before God presented Eve to Adam, He gave Adam instructions on the work that he needed to do within the Garden of Eden.

Once Adam did all the things that God instructed him to do, the Lord created Eve to help him manage the garden and live in it.

- **God** - A man should already have a solid connection and relationship with God before he thinks about becoming a woman's husband.
- **Work** - By nature, a man loves to provide and be the breadwinner for his family. A man who isn't confident enough to have already found solid ground and structure in his life alone will have a very difficult time building a solid life with a partner, as well as children that he needs to care for.
- **Cultivate** - He needs to be able to take care of his woman and know how to bring out the best in her. Adam had to cultivate and care for the garden. They normally say that the way a man treats his mother is the way he'll treat his wife. No wonder Earth is called Mother Nature. Adam took care of Mother Nature in the garden before he stepped up and became Eve's husband.
- **Protect** - A man needs to know how to protect that which he cares for. He shouldn't run away first when danger comes towards him and what he cares for. Instead, he should be man enough to stand up for his wife and his family and protect them, physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. If a man mistreats his job, his family, or his close friends, chances are that man won't treat you as his wife any different.
- **Word Of God** - A man should already know the word of God before he even thinks about finding a wife. Eve didn't drag Adam into the garden after she found him in the wilderness. She found Adam in the Garden of Eden, already in the presence of God. For that reason, a woman who is a child of God shouldn't be unequally yoked with a man who doesn't know the word of God.

MAKE WELL INFORMED DECISIONS IN LIFE. FOLLOW YOUR HEART BUT TAKE YOUR BRAIN WITH YOU.



After God gave Adam clear instructions and a life purpose, He then said, "It is not good for the (that) man to be alone." - Genesis 2:18

Build your house on a solid rock by making well-informed decisions before you decide to get married to a man.

A man with no purpose will have a hard time allowing you to follow yours and strive for your purpose.

That kind of man will try to drag you down to his level because it is far easier for someone who is at the bottom to pull someone down than it is for someone at the top to pull someone up.

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Successful Marriages

Are Built On Continuous effort, mutual growth, and finding joy in shared differences, rather than perfection.

Key insights from successful couples emphasize falling in love multiple times with the same person, maintaining individual space within togetherness, and treating marriage as a daily verb rather than a final noun.



WEDDING COUNTDOWN CHECKLIST

Month Before Task Checklist

- 12 Months
- Set wedding date
 - Create budget
 - Book venue
 - Hire wedding planner

Month Before Task Checklist

- 11 Months
- Start guest list
 - Research vendors
 - Choose wedding theme

Month Before Task Checklist

- 10 Months
- Book photographer
 - Book catering
 - Start dress shopping

Month Before Task Checklist

- 09 Months
- Book entertainment
 - Order save-the-dates
 - Schedule engagement shoot

Month Before Task Checklist

- 08 Months
- Order dress and suit
 - Choose bridal party
 - Start decor planning

Month Before Task Checklist

- 07 Months
- Book makeup and hair artist
 - Plan honeymoon
 - Finalize guest list

Month Before Task Checklist

- 06 Months
- Order invitations
 - Arrange transport
 - Select a cake designer

Month Before Task Checklist

- 05 Months
- Schedule dress fittings
 - Confirm rentals
 - Plan ceremony details

Month Before Task Checklist

- 04 Months
- Send invitations
 - Plan rehearsal dinner
 - Confirm all bookings

Month Before Task Checklist

- 03 Months
- Final dress fitting
 - Prepare wedding vows
 - Purchase accessories

Month Before Task Checklist

- 02 Months
- Confirm RSVP list
 - Create seating chart
 - Finalize timeline

Month Before Task Checklist

- 01 Months
- Confirm vendors
 - Pack for honeymoon
 - Relax and enjoy bridal shower



WEDDING CHECKLIST

12+ Months Before

- Establish Budget
- Create Wedding Vision/Theme
- Hire a Wedding Planner (if necessary)
- Choose Date & Venue
- Create Guest List
- Hire Key Vendors

9-12 Months Before

- Select Bridal Party
- Choose Wedding Dress & Attire
- Book Catering
- Hire Hair & Makeup Artists
- Send Save the Dates
- Book Transportation

6-9 Months Before

- Register for Gifts
- Select Ceremony Officiant
- Arrange Rentals
- Order Wedding Invitations
- Plan Honeymoon
- Book Entertainment

3-6 Months Before

- Finalize Menu & Cake
- Send Invitations
- Plan Ceremony Details
- Order Wedding Rings
- Create Seating Chart
- Schedule Dress Fittings
- Finalize Wedding Party Attire

1-3 Months Before

- Confirm Vendors
- Create Timeline
- Write Vows
- Create a Day-of Emergency Kit
- Plan Rehearsal
- Obtain Marriage License

1-4 Weeks Before

- Confirm RSVP
- Finalize Payments
- Pick Up Attire
- Finalize Seating Chart
- Create Wedding Favors
- Prepare for Rehearsal Dinner

The Week of the Wedding

- Reconfirm All Details
- Final Dress Fitting
- Pack for the Wedding Day
- Delegate Tasks

Day of the Wedding

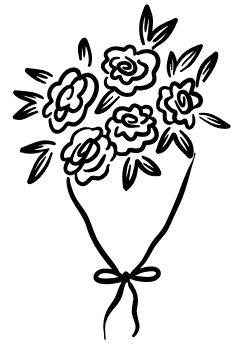
- Coordinate Vendors
- Assist the Bride and Groom
- Ensure the Ceremony is Set Up

After the Wedding

- Send Thank You Cards
- Preserve Wedding Dress & Suit
- Review & Choose Wedding Photos/Videos
- Settle Any Final Vendor Payments

Wedding Day

CHECKLIST



1. Ceremony Setup

- CEREMONY PROGRAMS
- SEATING PLAN / RESERVED SIGNS
- AISLE DÉCOR / PETALS
- CEREMONY ARCH / BACKDROP
- WELCOME SIGN
- RING BOX / HOLDER
- OFFICIANT NOTES / VOWS
- SOUND SYSTEM / MICROPHONES

3. Stationery & Styling

- PLACE CARDS
- TABLE NUMBERS
- MENUS
- SEATING CHART
- SIGNAGE (BAR, GUEST BOOK, GIFTS)
- GUEST BOOK + PENS
- CARD BOX
- STYLING FLAT-LAYS

5. Personal Essentials

- PHONE + CHARGER
- SNACKS / WATER
- MAKEUP TOUCH-UP KIT
- DEODORANT / PERFUME
- TISSUES
- PAIN RELIEF
- COMFORTABLE BACKUP SHOES

2. Attire & Details

- WEDDING DRESS / SUIT
- SHOES
- JEWELLERY / ACCESSORIES
- VEIL / HAIRPIECE
- RINGS (PARTNER 1 & 2)
- EMERGENCY FASHION TAPE
- LINT ROLLER / STAIN REMOVER
- FRAGRANCE / SIGNATURE SCENT

4. Vendors & Timing

- VENDOR CONTACT LIST
- FINAL RUN SHEET
- PAYMENTS / TIPS ENVELOPES
- MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
- COORDINATOR NOTES
- PHOTOGRAPHY SHOT LIST
- MUSIC CUES CONFIRMED

6. Final Checks

- RINGS ACCOUNTED FOR
- VOWS PRINTED
- TRANSPORT CONFIRMED
- FLOWERS DELIVERED
- PHOTOS OF DETAILS TAKEN
- ENJOY EVERY MOMENT

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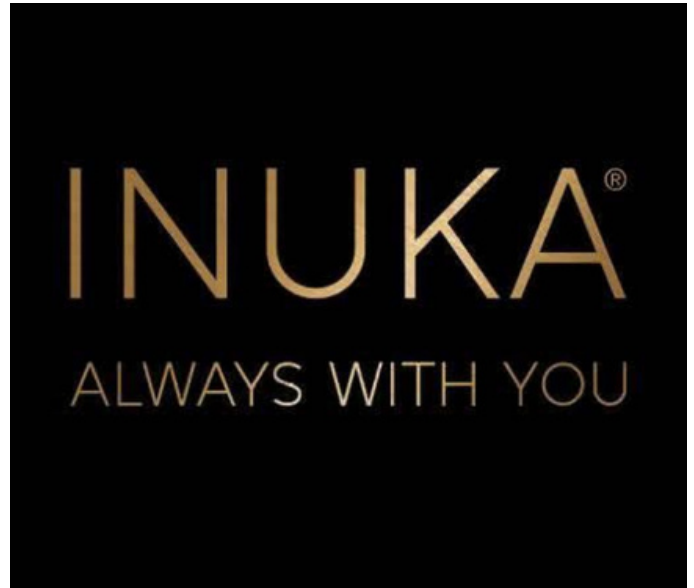


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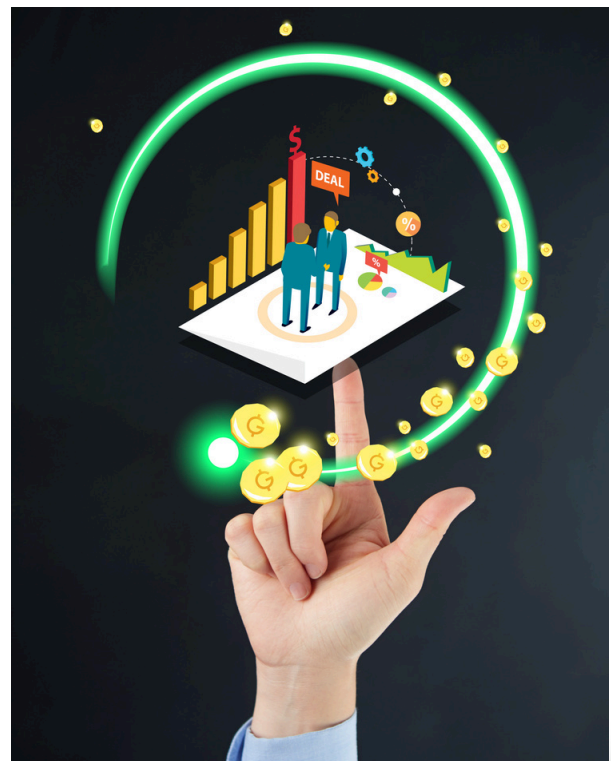
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