



THE MARKET WEDDING

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In this love story set in turn-of-the-century England, the village fishmonger schemes to give his bride everything she deserves, with unexpected results!

THE JEWISH WEDDING

A traditional Jewish wedding takes place under a canopy called a *chuppah*. The canopy itself can be a prayer shawl or an artistically crafted piece, sometimes given to the couple by a loved one. The *chuppah* symbolizes the home and life that the new couple will build together; it is open on all sides to symbolize the welcome that guests will always receive from this couple.

During the ceremony it is customary for the bride to circle the groom multiple times. In many contemporary Jewish weddings, three circles are made by each partner, representing the three repetitions of the phrase “I will betroth you to me” (Hosea 2:21-22).

One of the most widely known customs of a Jewish wedding is the moment the groom steps upon a glass and breaks it, accompanied by wishes of “*Mazel Tov!*” One of the many explanations for this practice is that even in this moment of intense joy, we must remember that the world is still broken and it is our duty to work to fix it.

Weddings, as other celebratory Jewish occasions, are marked with a festive meal, *seudat mitvah*, shared with family and friends. Joyous music and dancing are often a part of this celebration. It is considered a great *mitzvah* to honor the bride and groom at their wedding.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Discuss with your children what lessons may be learned from Minnie’s and Morris’ choices.

- What motivated Morris to plan a fancy wedding?
- Would Minnie and Morris have had friends to share in the joy of the wedding ceremony and reception if things had been less fancy?
- At first, Minnie was quite practical in her approach to the wedding. Why did she eventually acquiesce and join Morris in his extravagant plans?
- What effect did the couple’s plans have on their friends? How would you have reacted if you had been a friend of Morris and Minnie? Why didn’t the couple anticipate how their actions might affect others?
- Why did the newlyweds’ friends wait for them at their new flat?
- How might the couple have acted differently, and what outcomes would different choices have brought?
- What important life lessons do you think Minnie and Morris learned from their wedding experiences?

You may have your own stories of family weddings – and some of them may be funny! Share them! Children are often captivated by such tales and can gain insight into personalities and family relationships.