



Before Deciding to Get Married...

The story about Joanne and Allan is about two friends who met as young adults and decided they wanted to get married. If you are thinking about getting married, knowing more about their story may help you have a successful marriage, like theirs.

Here are some of the things that Joanne and Allan did:

- They went out together for a few years. This helped them to make sure that they still wanted to get married. They still wanted this when they got to know each other very well.
- They talked to each other about what they expected in a marriage partner. They talked about how they would manage to live alone together—who would cook, who would clean, who would get groceries, how they would each deal with their money.
- They each talked with people they trusted. They talked with a counsellor.
- They made certain decisions ahead of time. They decided not to have children. They went to a doctor to help them with this.
- They realized they both liked cats and they decided to get a cat.
- They got help from a social worker to find an apartment they could afford. They got help with their budget.
- When they were married they continued to get monthly help from a social worker. She helped with their finances. They continued to see a counsellor when they needed this.
- They made new friends together.
- They also stayed in touch with close friends from before they got married. These friends continue to support them.



- They stayed faithful to each other over the years. This means that Joanne did not look for another boyfriend. Allan did not look for another girlfriend.
- Now that they are retired they both volunteer at a nursing home. In a good marriage the partners care about other people too. They give of themselves to others.

