

## Reading

Tobit 8:4b-8

*Bring us to old age together.*

A reading from the book of Tobit.

- 4 On the evening of their marriage, Tobias said to Sarah,  
 ‘You and I must pray and petition our Lord  
 to win his grace and protection.’  
 They began praying for protection,
- 5 and this was how he began:  
 ‘You are blessed, O God of our fathers;  
 blessed, too, is your name for ever and ever.  
 Let the heavens bless you  
 and all things you have made for evermore.
- 6 It was you who created Adam,  
 you who created Eve his wife to be his help and support;  
 and from these two the human race was born.  
 It was you who said,  
 “It is not good that the man should be alone;  
 let us make him a helpmate like himself.”
- 8 And so I do not take my sister  
 for any lustful motive;  
 I do it in singleness of heart.  
 Be kind enough to have pity on her and on me  
 and bring us to old age together.’
- 8 And together they said, ‘Amen, Amen.’

The word of the Lord.

# Looking at the Text

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M O-5 Tobit 8:4b-8  
*Bring us to old age together.*

## The Book of Tobit:

This is a story about being faithful to God and family, and persistently trying to live a good life. Tobit came from the tribe of Naphtali, who thought they were good, but were not particularly so! Tobit was the one in the tribe who kept his faith when all around were losing theirs. He did what the law required, and gave a portion of his income for good causes — however, his downfall was pride in his own goodness. He looked after his wider family, and was guided and protected by an angel sent by God (called ‘Azariah’ in the story, but his real name was ‘Raphael!’) Tobit’s wife was Anna, a strong woman. Their son was Tobias, who eventually married his bride-to-be, Sarah, who had been very long-suffering in trying to find the right husband. Her father, Raguel, and mother, Edna, cared very much for Sarah’s wellbeing and future, and were trying to help her marry someone who would live long enough to consummate the marriage!

## Background

At this point in the story, Sarah and Tobias are newly married, on their wedding night. In a conversation with Tobias before he met Sarah, the angel Azariah had encouraged Tobias, saying that on their wedding night, Tobias and his new wife Sarah should pray together for their marriage, asking for God’s blessing, mercy and health.

## Reflecting on Scripture together

*Use the ‘Reflecting on Scripture together — a simple way’ in the introduction ‘Choosing your Wedding readings’.*

## Further Reflection

*Following the ‘slow reading’ process, here are some questions for further reflection:*

- How do you think you two are ‘made for each other’? What might you talk to God about or ‘pray’ for concerning your own marriage and life together? What does ‘growing old together’ mean for you? Could you perhaps make these shared thoughts into a very simple prayer with each other?
  - e.g. *Dear Lord, Thank you that we have found each other. In our life together we hope... (your hopes)... We ask your blessing on this time of preparation and our married life together. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*
- What do you particularly like about this reading? Why might it be suitable for your wedding?

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## Note about the Reading

M = this indicates that this is a reading which speaks explicitly about Marriage. One of the chosen readings must be taken from those which are about Marriage.