

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of our family and friends for coming to Jane and John's wedding. Most of you know that they met on campus at State University. But some of you may not know the specific details. They actually met on the set of a zombie movie a student was shooting for a project during their senior year. So, at least we know that they are prepared for the Zombie Apocalypse.

Tomorrow, my wife and I will celebrate our 29th wedding anniversary and just yesterday Johnny's parents celebrated their 31st. Hopefully, Jane and John paid close attention since watching us will be a good foundation to start with. In this current point in time, the two of you don't make a lot of money. You may think that by the time you're in your 30s you have to have everything figured out. But the reality is that no one really ever has anything completely figured out and we spend our whole lives trying to do so. What really matters in a marriage are love, communication and being willing to compromise, hard work and dedication, and loyalty and honesty. I hope that we all, as parents, have shown you that because if you can remember to keep these things in mind, your marriage will stand the test of time.

Of course, once you throw kids into the mix, marriage becomes a whole other ballgame. You no longer focus on just each other, but you are also responsible for the wellbeing of a tiny person. And you have to balance keeping the tiny person alive, all the while, still giving attention to your partner. Needless to say, raising Sally and Sam was never easy and it wasn't always fun, but it was always rewarding. For example, once you have children, there may be some situations you never thought you would be put in. When Sally was about 7 or so she cut at her bangs with scissors and swore she didn't do anything. Sorry, Sal, it was very obvious. The moral of the story? Kids are unpredictable and make sure you have a good hairstylist on speed dial.

As a family, we travelled a lot and it is still something that they love to do today. I hope that all of them will continue with that tradition with their own children. Another thing that is important is to be active in your child's life. That's why I coached both kids in basketball from 3rd to 8th grade.

Unfortunately, children have to grow up and once they become teenagers and young adults, they need their space no matter how sad it may be for the parents. But I'll let you in on how to know for sure that you've done your job right as a parent. The first time her mother and I left Sally for a weekend we told her "no parties." There wasn't a wild party, but she did have some friends over. We came home and look in the recycle bin and there are bottles in there. So, at least she was still thoughtful enough to recycle.

Jane and John, jokes aside, please know that no matter how old you get or how far you go, remember that your family and friends will always be for you in the end. To the bride and groom and many happy years ahead!