

Young Brides

Preeti's family arranged her marriage three years ago when she was still in college. As is common among some groups in India, she remained in her parents' home after her marriage while finishing her college studies.

Preeti's sister follows Jesus and has shared much with her about God's love and power. Preeti has had dreams and visions of Jesus, experienced healings and answers to prayer. However, she has resisted a commitment to following Jesus out of fear of her in-laws and what she will face when she goes to live with her husband's family.

She knows that as a daughter-in-law she will be expected to perform various rituals and fasts in worship of the family deities. If she doesn't, any misfortune the family experiences will likely be blamed on her for not fulfilling her duties.

For many young women from Hindu families, there is a high cost to following Jesus. If they choose to follow Jesus before their marriage is arranged, their family could have a hard time finding a spouse for them. Alternatively, they might be married into a family that will pressure them to perform Hindu religious duties. In some Hindu cultures, a young wife moves in with her in-laws and she can be treated poorly in her new home. This often happens even if she does join in all of the traditional rituals and worship.

However, for those women who have counted that cost and remained strong in their faith, many have become powerful influences in their in-law's homes. With time, many families experience Jesus' blessing and peace and allow their daughters-in-law to continue worshipping Jesus. Some families are greatly impacted, and other family members also come to faith in Jesus.

HOW CAN WE PRAY

Pray for young women believers who do not have the support of their families.

(ISAIAH 43:1,2)

Pray for women who are the only believers in their family to receive the blessings of

MATTHEW 5:1-12.

Pray for women believers to be light and salt to their families.

(MATTHEW 5:13-16)