

# Coming home for the first time

The bride arrives at her new home. Pausing at the entrance, she places her right foot against a pot of rice that's been placed before her. She pushes it over, breaking the pot and spilling the rice into the house. She steps through the door, into her new life, as the daughter-in-law of her husband's house. The pot filled with rice that she has just knocked over, symbolises the prosperity and blessing that a daughter-in-law brings to a home.

Many Hindu families live in joint family homes which contain multiple generations, almost always centered on the male side. Several brothers may live under the same roof with their wives, children and parents. In India, there is even a special tax status for joint families, allowing them to file their taxes together.

When a bride joins her husband's family, she comes home for the first time. The wedding often takes place in the woman's home community, and ends with a ceremony where the bride parts with her family. This part of the wedding is marked by grief and tears, as she bids her family goodbye. It is not usually a permanent parting, for she will almost certainly visit and sometimes stay with her birth family for an extended time, such as when she is pregnant.

## *How can we pray*

**Pray for young Hindu brides. Their new position in life creates a spiritual openness and many have noticed that the daughter in law of a family is often the first to accept Jesus and share with her husband's family.**

MATTHEW 5:6

**Pray for the Hindu family of young believers, that they would not treat young believers harshly but have an open ear to the hearing Good News from them.**

EPHESIANS 3:14-15

**Pray for Hindu marriages, that they would experience the blessings of God, living in fruitfulness, peace and joy.**

ACTS 16:31