

# Jesse & Katie











# *Hi there!*

Thank you so much for taking the time to get to know our family. We believe this decision you are considering for your child reflects who you are- so very loving and courageous. Even though we haven't met yet, we already think so highly of you, admire you, and wish the absolute best for you! We understand you may have many paths and difficult decisions ahead. We want you to know that no matter how your story unfolds, we are always on your side.

We hope you feel comfort and connection as you get to know our family and the love we share between us through our book. If you do choose to welcome your baby into our family, your child will always know how immensely loved they are- by you, and by us. We want to ensure that you are greatly supported throughout this process, but even more importantly, throughout life. Honoring an open adoption by keeping in contact with you and keeping you as a valuable part of your child's life is so important to us. You will always be seen, heard, and acknowledged in our family. We are here for you, and we can't wait to know you more!

with love and gratitude,

*Jesse and Katie*

# OUR STORY

*is our favorite one to share*

2000

We met as young kids  
in kindergarden

2011

Started dating in high  
school and fell in love

2013

Jesse proposed  
and we got engaged

2014

We promised forever  
and got married

2019

We welcomed our first  
child and became parents



At 15 years old, we became high school sweethearts. We have built the most beautiful life as a team, filled with love, joy, and friendship.

Our story began when we were young- only 15 years old. We dated throughout high school and were married shortly after graduating. Throughout our 11 years, we have always loved an adventure. Our first 6 years of marriage were spent living in Colorado, where we enjoyed hiking and exploring the Rocky Mountains. Life slowed down a little after moving away from the mountains and having children, but we still love to travel and go on adventures together, even if it's just a local attraction.



## *communication and connection*

Communication is very important for us, so when difficulties come up, we try to lean on each other and express our feelings. We lead with care, a listening ear. We believe there is always room to learn and grow. Finding small moments to connect throughout the day is important to us. As parents, we want to show our children what healthy communication can look like. We want to be an example to them of what a vibrant marriage can be.

## We are better together

1. Every Saturday morning, we wake up early before the kids and drink a cup of coffee together. We connect, talk, and just enjoy the slow morning before the kids wake up.
2. We both are big ice cream fans! Each year on our birthdays, we surprise one another with a fun ice cream flavor cake.

3. We have lived in four different states together, and this has built in us the heart of home is where we are together. No matter what house, state, or city we live in, we create a sense of stability, comfort, and connection in being together.

# 11

*years married*

You wouldn't imagine it! But we first met in kindergarten. Our parents chose the same local school for us. It is always a fun story to tell, and makes us smile.





# FAMILY CENTERED

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**Faith-** We value our faith above all else. We strive to live like Jesus and be a reflection of his unconditional love to others.

**Our time together-** We cherish the time we have as a family, whether we're traveling in the summer, visiting extended family, or enjoying the simpler things in life like a local walking trail, ice cream shop, bike ride, or playing games at home.

**Holiday Celebrations-** We have a few holiday celebrations we love to uphold! Christmas, Easter, and the 4th of July are usually spent with our extended family. We cherish these times and know our children will grow up remembering these special moments.

**Sports-** We are a family that loves hockey! A yearly trip to watch the St. Louis Blues play is always such fun. We try to catch all of their games on TV at home throughout the season as well.

**Traveling-** We always plan for a fun summer trip, sometimes near and sometimes farther away. Last year, we went to see the Smoky Mountains in Shenandoah National Park. This year we are heading to Starved Rock State Park in northern Illinois.





## HEARTS FOR ADOPTION

Since becoming married, we have always felt like adoption would be a part of our story in some way. We desired a home filled with children, love, and laughter! Growing up, we both knew how special it was to have siblings and desired that for our children. We also thought a lot about how unique and special it would be to have two families who share an incredible love for a child.

Through the years, we have gone back and forth over when to start the adoption process, simply waiting for the time to feel "right". In the meantime, we had two children, who are now 6 and 4 years old. Within the last year, we have really explored what an adoption could look like for our family. Growing in this way would only multiply the love that we share!

### *we want you to know*

*We will always be an open and safe place for both you and your child. As an adoptee, we will honor and protect their heart and their story. Giving you and your child a sense of belonging and comfort is what we will strive to do each day. We will love your child no matter what life brings. We will commit all our love and life to them from childhood through adulthood. We would take the honor of raising and loving your child with so much humility and spend the best parts of ourselves being there for them in all life's moments.*



Jesse



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*As a dad, I hope to be a safe place for my children to come to when they need guidance. I pray that through loving and honoring them, they will know I am always there for them. I want to be a safe space and an honest leader throughout their lives. I look forward to cheering them on, encouraging them, and loving them for who they are! We take on the good times and the bad times together, as a family.*

My friends would say I have a good sense of humor, am confident, and helpful to others.

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## MY CAREER

I am a U.S. Army Active-Duty Service Member. I enjoy being a leader as a service member, teaching others, and guiding them through training is fulfilling. The Army offers tons of resources and opportunities for service members and their families. Currently, my job is very flexible and family-friendly, allowing time off when needed. Since I work for the government, I always have weekends and holidays off and a long "vacation" time two times per year that allows me to spend lots of quality time with my family. We usually try to plan small trips and visit extended family during these times.



## Things I love...

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cooking & grilling - fishing - reading - family bike rides - playing pickle ball - quality family time

### MY HUSBAND

Jesse is strong, confident, caring, and loving. I feel so blessed to have him as my husband! I have always been drawn to his sense of humor and outgoing personality, and the love he has for others. He has a heart for giving and is always thinking about the ways he can help other people. Watching Jesse be a father has been so special. He is the type of dad that doesn't want to miss out on any moments. If work allows, he is right alongside us at the park, pool, or any other activities we may have. I love how intentional he is as a father whether it's spending time with the kids out on a bike ride, playing catch in the backyard, or sitting down to read a book with them. He is a great teacher and takes any moment he can to teach the kids how something is done to ensure they are set up for success in life.

### AS A DAD

"Through our unconditional love and roles as parents, we show respect and care for our children and for each other. I am the provider, protector, and spiritual leader for my family, and I take these roles to heart. I am so grateful to the Lord for allowing Katie the opportunity to give her full attention to raising our children. I will continue to provide so she can raise our children in this way. We are a team, and I am the type of dad that will be there for little life moments, like reading bedtime stories, and big ones too. I want to be the dad my kids can confide in and know I will never judge them, their safe place. Above all, it is my belief that our most important responsibility as parents is to teach our children to follow the words of God and to live like Jesus."

-Jesse



# Katie



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*Watching my kids grow and become uniquely themselves is what I love the most about being a mother. Recognizing their individual needs and wishes is something I always strive to do as a parent. My biggest prayer for my kids is that they grow up feeling safe and loved and are able to be a shining light for others.*

My friends would describe me as a good listener, kind, and creative.

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## As a stay at home mom

I am a stay-at-home-mom to our children, and plan to be until all of our children are in grade school, or older. I cannot express how much I enjoy my time at home with the kids! It has been so special to have endless quality time with them and to watch them grow in every aspect. It has been a blessing not to have to worry about childcare as well. Staying at home has allowed our family tons of flexibility and peace of mind.



## Things I love...

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gardening - growing flowers in the summer -  
crafting - sewing - baking bread - spending time  
outdoors - quality time with family

### MY WIFE

Katie is kind and genuine. She is a listening ear for those around her. She never turns down an opportunity to help a friend or a stranger. She is sweet and understanding, but stands firm on her beliefs when it comes to faith and family. Our kids think the world of Katie. She brings them comfort when they are sad, and she knows how to have fun and make them laugh hysterically. When I come home from work, she is usually immersed in an activity with them, whether it's a craft, outdoor play, working on homework, or involving them in dinner prep. Just by watching her interactions with our children, you can see that she never takes a moment for granted.

### AS A MOM

"I was raised with the most kind and caring parents, and knew when I had kids, I wanted to raise them in a similar way. I cherish each moment I have with them, whether we're making big memories outside of the house or sharing small moments throughout the day together. I want them to know that I will always be there for them, in the good times and bad, and they are safe with me no matter what. It would bring me so much joy to welcome another child into our family to nurture and love. I can't wait to see what kind of qualities your child would add to our family, and how I can play a role in fostering who they become!"

-Katie



# FAMILY TIME



A typical evening in our home centers around dinner at the table together. We like to talk about our "favorite part of the day" as we eat. This usually gets a few laughs and brings up fun memories. Depending on the season, we may have a library event, baseball, swimming, or gymnastics to go to as well. We enjoy spending time with friends at church small group once a week. If our night is free, we like to take a quick walk around the neighborhood after dinner, if the weather allows. We read a story (or a few) together before we wind down for bedtime.

As a family, we also love to visit the parks and trails around our community for a walk or a bike ride. When the weather is warm, you can find us at the pool or by a body of water fishing. If we are visiting our hometown for the weekend, we are usually spending time at Katie's parents' farm, or at Jesse's mother's pond, swimming and fishing throughout the day. Quiet evenings at home during cold weather usually consist of a few rounds of UNO or Candyland with the kids. Most Friday nights, we set up our projector, make popcorn, and have a movie night together.





*outgoing - symathetic - kind*

# Joel

Joel will begin first grade this year. Outwardly, he is social, outgoing, and adventurous. He is usually the first one to make a new friend. He is very active and enjoys baseball and swimming. Joel is also very curious about how things work and loves to build and explore. While Joel is outgoing, he is also very sweet. He gets along with other kids of all ages very well and picks up on others' emotions easily. We love his caring and sympathetic heart. He already takes on the role of "big brother" and instinctively protects his sister.



# Elliot

*sweet - nurturing - loving*

Elliot will begin preschool this year. She is currently enjoying gymnastics and swimming. She loves to play and interact with others, but also has an independent side to her personality. She loves animals and nature and is always the first to point out a bird or rabbit in our yard. She is quiet, sweet, sensitive, and nurturing. Elliot is very creative and never passes up an opportunity for an art project. We love how she expresses her opinions with lengthy, detailed stories. She will be a very proud big sister and will enjoy helping out.



## EDUCATION ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕

As parents, we care more about the quality of education and the environment they are in is healthy. . Currently, our son will attend first grade at a public school near our home, because it is very highly rated. However, our daughter is attending a private preschool, as there are only a couple of preschool options nearby. Once our children are done with high school, we plan to allow them the freedom to decide whether they want to attend college, enter the workforce, or take another route in life. We will always be here for them to offer support and guidance.



## FUTURE ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕

We plan to live in our current community when Jesse is retired from the Army. We love the opportunities our town has to offer. We would love to continue to grow our family as well, but we will rely on the Lord to provide those opportunities for us. We love to travel, and plan to continue exploring new locations and creating new memories together. We would love to see the fall foliage in Vermont some day, along with Glacier National Park.



## FAITH ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕

Our faith in Jesus is the foundation of our family. We try to be a reflection of Jesus' light and love through helping others and extending grace. We teach our children about Jesus and how much he loves them, and how important it is to love others! We are so happy to be a part of a wonderful church family where we have friends who love us and support us.







## TRADITIONS *we love as a family*

Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter are always spent with our extended family. We cherish these times with our siblings, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. We typically have a meal together and spend the day celebrating.

**Birthdays are a big deal in our house!** For the kids, we decorate the house while they are asleep, so they are greeted by balloons, streamers and other decorations to celebrate when they wake up. We have their breakfast of choice ready (usually donuts from our local donut shop) with candles to blow out. We sing and open a few gifts, then the day is theirs. They can pick a fun outing and a restaurant to eat at, or they can request their favorite homemade meal. Really, they get to choose the path of the day! It's all about them.



## Summer trips together

We try to take at least one trip each summer. Sometimes we pick a destination farther away, and sometimes we keep the travel a little shorter and explore somewhere closer to home. Whichever route we take, we always have a great time checking out somewhere new. Within the last few years, we have enjoyed visiting Ouray, Colorado, Lake of the Ozarks, and Shenandoah National Park.

# HOME AND HEART LIVE here



We live in a three-bedroom, two-bathroom ranch-style home. It has a big, spacious living room where we enjoy relaxing and spending time together with friends and family. We create memories in the kitchen by cooking and eating together. We share meals at our table every day. We have a big, fenced-in backyard where we spend lots of time. We have our garden out there, along with a swing set for the kids to play on.

We currently rent this home, as we are still in search for a "forever home." Jesse has about 8 years left in the military, so we will move from this house to another location before he is out of the Army. **We do have plans to come back to the community we are living in, as it has a strong community feel and we are close to family.**





We feel so grateful to live in a community that is focused on family. From local events, schools, and extracurricular activities. There is always something fun for our family and safe to be involved in.

We currently live in the Midwest, not far from where we grew up. Our town is very family-friendly and has tons to offer. The downtown area is very charming, with all kinds of coffee shops, ice cream shops, and specialty stores. We have a wonderful library system that hosts various activities for kids throughout the year. We have several parks, trails, and a pool in town. The school district is highly sought after and serves families well. Our town hosts lots of festivals and markets from Spring through Fall. Our town is mid-sized but has a "small town" feel.

Being a military family, we have lived in several different communities, and they all have exceeded our expectations. Military bases offer really great resources and support for children and families as a whole. Safety and security are their top priority as well, so it's very peaceful and reassuring to be a part of those areas.



## RAISING A FAMILY IN *Indiana*

GREAT SCHOOLS

KID'S LIBRARY

CHARMING DOWNTOWN

SMALL TOWN FEEL

FAMILY HOLIDAY FESTIVALS

LOCAL POOL & PARKS





we see you as family, sharing so much love between us all

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in each step of this journey, we hope to show you that care



# PROMISES

1. We promise to love your child deeply and unconditionally, never having to earn our love.
2. We promise to honor you always in our home, speak of you with the greatest respect and care.
3. We will talk about adoption positively and freely, while keeping your child's story sacred for them to share when they are ready.
4. We promise to offer a stable, supportive, and nurturing environment for your child where they can thrive in who they uniquely are.
5. Your child will always know how loved they are by you, and we will keep our word with openness, always following through.
6. We promise to honor your child's culture and heritage, being lifelong learners of who they are and where they come from.

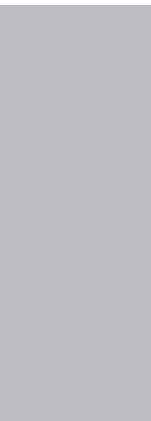




*our family*

is connected, supportive, and fun

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FAMILY

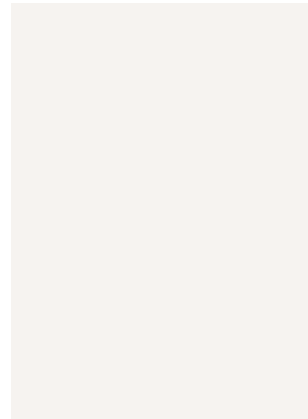
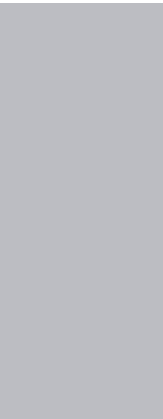
All of our close relatives also live about two hours from us. We look forward to spending time with them when we visit our hometown, which is often once a month. Aside from our holiday traditions, we try to plan a family trip about once a year. We are very close to our families, and they are so excited about our plans to adopt! We know they have been praying over our family, over you, and your family as well. We are so grateful to have such supportive families.

All our extended family is very excited to love our next child



## Jesse's family

I have four siblings; Haley (32), Madison (29), Jackson (19), and Jett (15). My mother is Michele, and she goes by "Mimi" from her grandkids. She and my father, Jason, divorced when I was young, so my younger brothers Jackson and Jett have a different mother than I do. My father goes by "Pappy" from the grandkids. My sister Haley married Gabe, and together they have Nora (7), Josiah (2) and Judah (6 months). Madison married Nick, and together they have Elowen (4 months). I am also very lucky to have all of my grandparents still, who go by Gigi and Grandpa and Paps and Grammy.



## Katie's family

My parents are Rex and Amy, and they have been married 37 years. They go by Grandpa Rex and Grammy to their grandkids. I have one brother, Seth. He married Brooke, and together they have two boys, Nolan (8) and Carson (6). Some other family members that are a big part of my life are my Aunt Laura, Uncle Paul, and my cousin Kevin. Kevin has two children, Claire (13) and Carter (11).

*above all else, we will always put love first*

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# WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

*and cannot wait to know you more*

We cannot say enough about how brave you are to choose life during this difficult time. No matter what you are going through, and no matter the path you take, please know you and your baby are so important and loved. We are here for you, and we are praying over your life.

Thank you for taking a glimpse into our life and learning a little about us. We can't wait to learn more about you and the dreams and goals you envision for your child. Our hope is that we can keep those dreams and visions alive as we maintain connection and openness with you, if you desire this as well.

We have seen from those around us how adoption is a beautiful expression of love, but is also a time of sorrow. We wish you so much peace and comfort as you make difficult decisions ahead. No matter where your journey takes you, your child will always know the selfless love you have for them!

*Jesse & Katie*



Our family is excited to  
meet you, listen to your  
hopes and dreams, and  
build a relationship  
together.



*Jesse & Katie*

