JUSTIN + KELSIE

We are Justin and Kelsie

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.”
Ephesians 3:20

This is a scripture that we have hanging above our dining table. We believe wholeheartedly that God is able to do more than we could ever ask or imagine. Our prayer is that your little one will grow to know and love the Lord and know that He is capable of immeasurably more.

It's so nice to meet you!

We want to begin by telling you how much we admire you. The strength, love, courage, and selflessness that you are displaying while walking what we can only imagine is an incredibly challenging path, does not go unseen. We see you. We honor you. We value you. You mean so much to us. We have been praying for you and will continue to pray for you throughout your journey. Please know that though we haven't met you yet, we love you for you, unconditionally. You are an incredible woman and an incredible mom. We are huggers, so we sure wish we could give you a big hug right now, look you in the eyes, and tell you how amazing you are.

We so appreciate you taking the time to get to know us and reading our story. We hope that you are able to see how much we love one another, our families, and our life. We'd love to get to know you and hear about the hopes and dreams you have for your baby! We feel so honored to be considered by you to parent your child. Please know that if we are chosen, we will spend every day of our lives treating that precious little one like the true treasure and blessing they are. We will remind them daily how loved they are by God, by you, and by us. You will be held in the utmost respect in our home. You will become our treasured family, too.

with so much love,
Justin + Kelsie

IN KELSIE'S WORDS

WHY ADOPTION

Adoption has always been on my heart. Most little girls dream of carrying and giving birth to a child, but not me. I dreamt of adopting a little one. At a very young age, I announced to my family that I was in fact going to adopt a child one day. Though I'm not entirely sure where I first got the idea, wherever it came from, it took deep root in my heart.

Fast forward twenty or so years to meeting Justin, and one of our first serious conversations included me emphatically telling him I was going to adopt children - not have them biologically. His reaction was inspiring. Though he'd never thought of adoption in that sense, he immediately was on board and excited about the idea. Since then, the excitement and anticipation has only grown.

I have had the incredible opportunity of teaching several children who were adopted. Each time I find out that I have a child in my class who was adopted, it warms my heart so much and I automatically feel such a connection with them.

YOU CAN START AGAIN
be kind
ANIMALS

OUR STORY

Many years ago, Justin began what would be a life-long friendship with a guy who he played in the church worship band with. Around the same time, Kelsie began taking ballet and met a girl that she, too, would create a life-long friendship with. Fast forward twelve years and those two friends of ours met and got married. We were both in their wedding party, but we didn't even speak on the day of their wedding.

A year and a half later, the newly married couple was having a masquerade birthday party. Both of us were invited and unknown to us, our friends had a plan to introduce us. We chatted for a while, even danced with one another, exchanged numbers, and the rest is history. Who would've thought that through two mutual friends getting married that we would meet our future spouses? God's timing and His plan for our lives is truly more than we could ever ask for or imagine!

We have been married for six years.

Through the thirteen years that we've known one another, we've walked through good times, fun times, sad times, and hard times. But, we will both tell you that we love one another today more than we ever have. The foundation of our marriage is Jesus. He is our solid rock. We believe in constant, completely open and honest communication. We believe in putting one another above ourselves. We check in on one another's hearts. We pray for and with each other. We love each other deeply and strive daily to show that in our words and actions.

Our Milestones

March 31, 2012
We were in our friends' wedding party.

October 19, 2013
We officially met at our friends' birthday party.

October 19, 2019
Justin proposed at the Opryland Resort.

May 30, 2020
We got married at the same place we met!

MEET JUSTIN

IN KELSIE'S WORDS

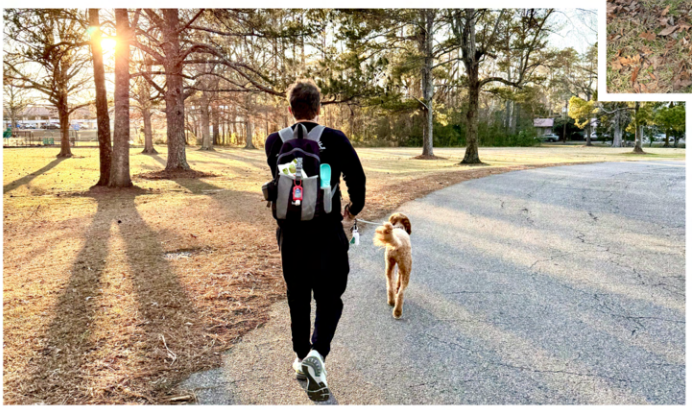
Justin is everything I could have ever asked for and so much more. When the Bible talks about God being able to do immeasurably more than we could ever ask for or imagine, that's Justin to me. He's immeasurably more than I could have ever asked for or imagined. He is the definition of a true gentleman. I never open a door, take out the trash, or pull out a chair. He has the biggest and softest heart. He'll have tears in his eyes at a sweet commercial or story in seconds. To know Justin, is to adore Justin. He lives life with rose colored glasses. He's so positive and optimistic. He's truly everything I could have ever wanted in a husband.

Seeing Justin with children melts my heart. I cannot wait to see him as a dad. I know that without a doubt our baby will never question how much their daddy loves them. He'll absolutely be the fun parent. Justin is always up for a good time! But he'll also be the daddy that reads countless bedtime stories, holds them just a little longer for sweet snuggles, and comes to their rescue no matter what.

Dependable. Talented. Easy Going

MY OCCUPATION

I am currently the supervisor of an electrical maintenance shop, where I have worked for over nineteen years. I enjoy my job. I get to oversee projects that range from small electrical repairs to large projects that involve the construction of new buildings and new electrical systems. Upon adoption of a child, I will receive twelve weeks of paid parental leave to take anytime within the first year of our child's life. I am very thankful for the opportunity to have extra bonding time with a new baby.



The thing I look most forward to in becoming a dad is giving my child a better life than I had. My parents separated when I was six. Though both of my parents tried their best, it just wasn't an ideal situation. I quickly took on a leadership role in my home and family. I want our child to grow up in a home with two parents who both love the Lord first and love one another. I want our child to be able to be a child instead of having to fulfill a parent role like I did. I look forward to showing them unconditional love, support, and being fully on their team.

Having the opportunity to become a parent is exciting, nerve racking, and intimidating. I want to show our children the best example of what it means to love like Jesus that I possibly can. I have learned so much about unconditional love from my wife. I want our kids to feel safe coming to me about their struggles, their problems, and whatever else they have going on in their lives. I want my kids to have a safe place to land when life feels overwhelming and scary. I want them to know that they are not alone and they don't have to face this world by themselves. I want to teach my kids that they can trust in and rely on Jesus and trust in and rely on their parents.

MY HOBBIES

- I enjoy playing guitar, especially with our church worship band.
- I love to drink coffee. A peppermint mocha is my favorite!
- I enjoy working out and love to run long distances.
- I love all things Christmas.

MEET KELSIE

IN JUSTIN'S WORDS

The thing I admire most about Kelsie is her selflessness. She is the best example of what it looks like to love unconditionally and to put others before herself. Kelsie supports and loves me so much. She makes me want to be a better person. She is strong, smart, organized, driven, and compassionate. When she sets her mind to do something it is done well, and she doesn't stop until it's how she likes it. I can say for sure my life without her would be a lot less full, and I would be missing out on experiencing the unconditional love she shows me everyday.

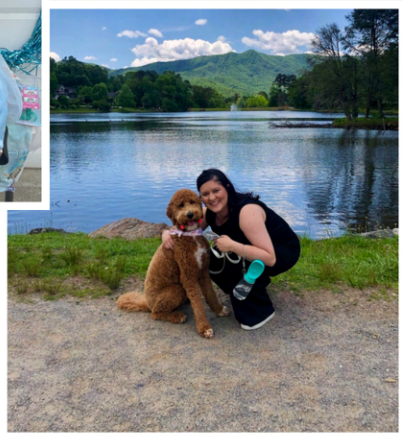
Kelsie is incredible with kids. She has such a heart to love them and to see them grow. I get so emotional every time I think about seeing her with our future children. I can't wait to experience life with her raising a family. I know without a doubt she will be the BEST mom, and we will make the BEST team raising kids. I know that the love she shows me and everyone around her will be demonstrated even more so with our kids.

Intentional. Loyal. Compassionate

MY OCCUPATION

I have the best job in the world. I get to spend my days in a classroom surrounded by some of the most incredible little kiddos I know, and I get to work with some of my very best friends. I'm a third grade teacher at a local elementary school. My heart beats for children. Parents entrust their most prized possessions to me every day, and I get to love on, educate, and protect them. That is truly humbling. What I tell my students' parents at the beginning of every year is that I promise that while their children are with me they will be loved and respected. I promise you that as well.

Being a teacher happens to be the most incredible mom job you could have. I have pretty awesome working hours, summers and holidays off, and eventually my kiddos will get to be at the same school as me for quite a few years. Even better, I'll get to spend three solid months with our new baby as soon as they are born.



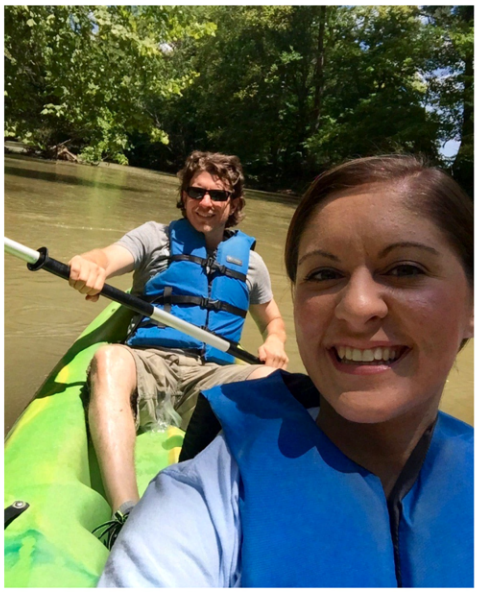
I wish I had known as a child how blessed I was. My parents are two of my biggest heroes. They loved me and my brother deeply and unconditionally. They were and have always been there for me from ballet recitals, to school events, to my wedding, to remodeling our home, to literally every second in between. My desire, my goal, and my earnest prayer is that I provide the life for my child that my parents provided for me.

Becoming a mom is my deepest desire. Being entrusted to parent a child is a very serious job to me. First and foremost, I want my child to know how deeply they are loved. I want to raise them in a way that honors God and teaches them to be good humans. My heart's desire is that they grow to know and love the Lord with all of their heart and lean on Him. I want them to learn to think of others, to serve others, and be selfless. I want them to love learning- about whatever that may be. I want my child to have every opportunity that we can possibly give them to become all that they want to be. I cannot wait to cheer on my child as they walk through this life and discover who they are. To be a mom would mean the absolute world to me. I believe that all children have a voice that should be heard. They have feelings, needs, wants, aspirations, dreams, and hopes that should be heard with a tender heart, cheered on, and championed. What an incredible honor it'll be one day to be someone's mom.

MY HOBBIES

- **I love spending time with my extended family and getting together for family dinners.**
- **I enjoy home decor and home projects.**
- **I love my plants! Spring time is so fun because it's time for new ones!**
- **I consider my friends my family. I love being with them and their children!**

Our Time TOGETHER



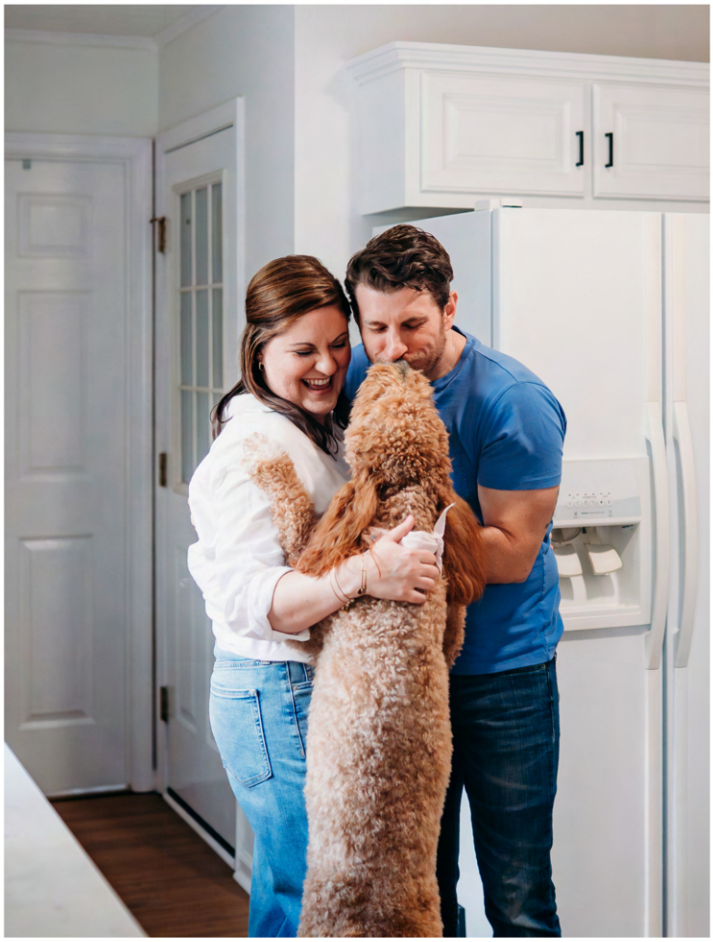
Our favorite thing is to be together!

On weekday nights you'll find us at home after work seated at our dining room table enjoying a meal together. We eat dinner together at the table every night and talk about our day. After that, we love to take our dog, Olivia, for a walk around our neighborhood and continue our chats. On weekends, you'll find us looking for a new adventure to take together; hopefully with Olivia. We enjoy getting outside with her and giving her the best life we can. We also enjoy finding new restaurants to try! On Sunday mornings, you'll find us engaged in Bible study with our small group of like-minded friends before church. After small group, we enjoy worshiping and learning about the Lord in service. Justin often plays guitar with the worship band. Once a month, Kelsie works with the preschoolers during church. Once a month, we also step in for the children's director and run the kid's church.

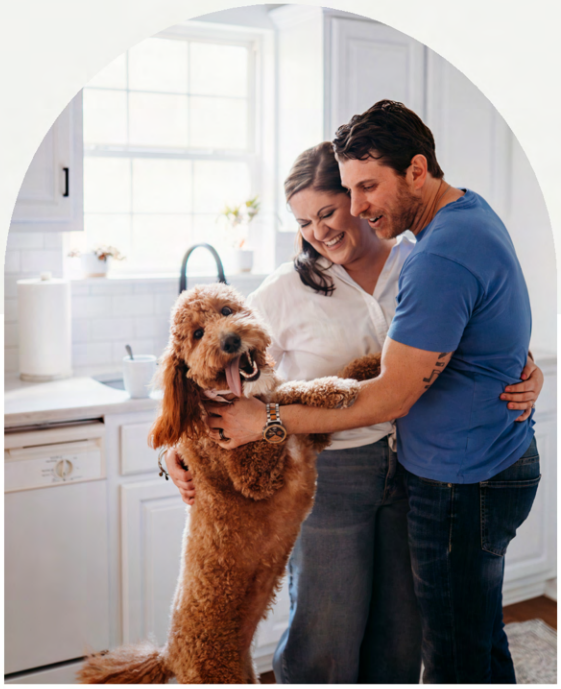
We take a trip together every year. We spend months thinking about where we'd like to go next and try our best to travel to somewhere new each trip. For our first anniversary, we went to Disney World. On that trip, we bought a stuffed animal Pooh and Tigger for our future child. We cannot wait to see a little one with those two stuffed animals.

Olivia

oh
HOW
HE
LOVES
US



The IMPORTANT Things



FAITH

Our faith is the driving force behind everything we do. We love Jesus and strive to live that out in our daily lives. We attend a local church full of the kindest, most loving, encouraging people.

FAMILY

We value being together, having one another's backs, and enjoying all that life has to offer with one another.

KINDNESS

We live by the golden rule. Kindness truly makes all the difference. We believe in being kind to everyone, no matter what.

WORK ETHIC

We believe in hard work, giving your best, commitment, and diligence. The Bible tells us to “work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."

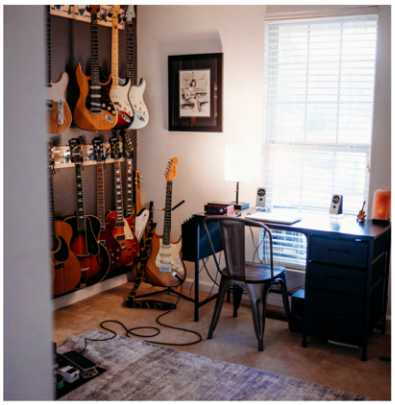
OUR HOME

Our home is our haven. It is a three bedroom, two bath home set in the very back of a quiet neighborhood right at the foot of surrounding mountains. Over the past six years, we've renovated almost every inch of the home. Our goal was to make our home a special, sacred space where we could both relax at the end of a busy day, but we could also throw a party and have all of our friends and family over. The space is bright and airy, but still warm and cozy. We have a large back deck for entertaining, as well as a big backyard that backs up to many acres of wooded land. It truly feels like private space!

Our final home project will be the nursery. It's a beautiful space with a large bay window that looks just dreamy. We will soon begin work on this room by adding hardwood flooring and decorative trim on the walls. Kelsie's dad and brother are also refinishing family heirloom pieces to go into the nursery. The baby's dresser will be a piece that was owned by their great grandmother. The toy box will be a piece that was built by their great-great grandfather. The table that will sit next to the rocker in the nursery will be the table that sat next to the baby's great-grandfather's bed. We are thrilled that this room will be filled with such special pieces. We can't wait to see our future child in the room that we are all lovingly preparing for them.

MEET OLIVIA

Our Olivia, or "Livi" as we lovingly call her, is our precious little girl! She's a dearly loved part of our family. She is the definition of sunshine. She makes the good days better and the hard days easier. She is a brilliant, spunky, fun little three-year-old Goldendoodle. She's attended more training classes in her life than we can count, with the last being a therapy dog training course. We tell her daily she's the best girl in the world, and we wholeheartedly believe that. She adores people - especially kids. In fact, if we are out and about and she sees a child, she will beg us to let her go and "meet" them. It's the cutest thing ever! We have no doubt that she will be such a great big sister. We cannot wait to watch her and our child grow up together.



Our Community - We live in the suburbs in the south.

We have both lived in relatively the same area our whole lives. In fact, most of our families live very close to us. That is what has kept us here all this time. Being near family is everything to us. We love that our town is large enough to have plenty of things to do, but small enough that you know your neighbors. Plus we are in close driving distance to several big towns with even more to offer. The downtown area of our town offers a cute little quaint main street where many family friendly community events take place for holidays that we can't wait to visit as a family. We are super excited to take our future child to the many parks in our area. They offer such incredible views, playgrounds, and walking areas. Truly, having so many great playgrounds so close to us is such a gift and will no doubt be loved by our future child. Our local school district ranks very well in both the state and nation. We are both incredibly excited about the opportunity that this school district has to offer for our future child. If you can think of it, they seem to have it!

Our HOLIDAYS

Getting together with our families is our favorite! Birthdays are a big deal in our family, so we regularly gather together to celebrate our people! We love getting together to eat a meal, have cake, and exchange gifts. We make sure that everyone gets celebrated big time on their special day!

Christmas is also a huge holiday in our families. Justin's family comes to our house to celebrate every year. We love having our little nieces over with sweet little pitter-patters of feet running through the house. Kelsie's family is pretty large, so it takes a couple of gatherings to see everyone. Matching holiday pajamas are always a must! We even get Olivia in on the fun with a matching bandana!

Adding a little one to our family brings so many special traditions that we can't wait to get started.

We look forward to having special outfits for each and every holiday from hearts on Valentine's Day, to green on St. Patrick's Day, to bunnies on Easter, to cute Thanksgiving and Christmas outfits and everything in between! This child will be decked out for every holiday. We can't wait to give them Valentine's Day gifts like Kelsie's family did when she was little. We look forward to Easter baskets, stockings hung, and presents under the tree at Christmas. We can't wait to create magic for our child from creating bunny prints on the floor at Easter for them to find on Easter morning to making reindeer food and cookies for Santa at Christmas. It will truly be a joy to create magic for our little one.

meet our FAMILY

We are so blessed to have most of our family living very close to us.

Justin's Family - I have two sisters and one brother. My brother is the very fun Uncle Jake. My sisters are both married with children of their own. My sister, Stacy, has two little girls. Maggie is five and Lilah is two. My sister, Jessica, has five kids who are all older. My dad and stepmom are the grandkids' PopPop and LeeLee. The kids adore their grandparents. I also have several aunts and an uncle that I am close with; Jane, Vickie, Sheila, and Glen. They are all looking forward to having another little one join the family.

Kelsie's Family - I have one brother, Zach, and a sister-in-law, Morgan. There are no grandkids in the family yet, but the grandpups know their grandparents as Lolli and Pop. They also know their great grandmother as Grandmomma. My family cannot wait to have the first grandbaby join the family. This baby is sure to be spoiled quickly. I have three first cousins that I am close with that all have children. There are nine kids in total ranging in age from newborn to nine. Our baby will have no shortage of cousins to play with for sure.

Our families are beyond thrilled to have a little one joining the family. Their joy was tangible when we told them about our plans to adopt. This sweet baby can't arrive fast enough for them. Our parents are all beyond thrilled to get to hold, love on, spoil, and care for a new grandbaby. Our siblings are also ecstatic to finally become aunts and uncles. This baby will no doubt have many family members that are at the ready to do anything and everything they can for them!

Notes From Our Family

A MESSAGE FROM LOLLI

We promise to honor the incredible decision that you are making, and to always remind this child how deeply they were loved from the very beginning. This child will grow up surrounded by love, prayers, and gratitude every single day. Thank you for trusting us with the greatest blessing of our lives.

A MESSAGE FROM AUNT VICKIE

A child in Justin and Kelsie's home will hear the words "I love you" every day. They will feel loved and protected every second of every day.

A MESSAGE FROM UNCLE ZACH + AUNT MORGAN

We could not be more excited to see Justin and Kelsie become parents. They have so much love to give, and we know this child will grow up in a home filled with love, kindness, and happiness. Our entire family is ready to welcome this baby with open arms.

Faith + Education

Our Christian faith is the driving force behind everything in our lives. Every decision we make is based on the Bible and what we believe God would have us to do. Raising a child will become part of that. The Bible says that children are a gift. We will treat our child everyday like the gift they are. We want to be loving, caring, soft-spoken, open hearted and open minded parents. First and foremost, we want our children to know and love the Lord. We want our children to love others and be selfless. We want our children to know and believe that the Lord has something planned for their lives that is exceeding, abundantly more than they could ever ask for or imagine.

Education is very important to us. We plan on sending our child to the school district where Kelsie works, but even before our child heads off to school, we want to instill a love of learning from day one. Reading to children is so very important to us. From day one, we will read to our child. As they grow, we will encourage, support, and expose them to as much as we possibly can. We can't wait to take our child to the zoo, the aquarium, the library, the children's museum, the beach, Disney World, the mountains, different states and countries, and everywhere in between. We believe that exposing children to different opportunities will open their eyes to their passions, interests, and goals.

Our goal is to be the wind beneath our children's sails. We want our children to follow their dreams and goals. We want to help them find what motivates them and help them make a life plan that honors that. If that includes college, that is fantastic. If that does not include college, that is also fantastic. We want them to do what makes them happy, honors the Lord, gives back to this world, and provides for them and their future family. We do not feel that there is a one-size-fits-all approach to college and career. We want to provide our children with the opportunities, support, and encouragement to dream big, work hard, and create a life they love!

We PROMISE to

Love this baby with everything we are and give them so many hugs and kisses!

Honor and respect you with our words and actions in our home; after all you are our family!

Tell this baby everyday how loved they are by God, you, and us.

Do everything we can to ensure that this child grows up in a stable, loving, and caring home.

Provide this baby with every opportunity so that they can become all that the Lord created them to be!

Before You Go

What a brave and selfless choice you are considering. It is obvious how much you love your baby. You are so strong! What an incredible woman you are! We pray for strength for you. We pray for your heart. We pray for your health and safety.

If you choose us to parent your child, please know that we sincerely cannot wait to get to know you and have you in our lives, if that is something you desire. You are so important to us and to your baby. You always will be. You will be respected in our home. You will be loved in our home. Your baby will grow up knowing you and knowing how incredibly strong and amazing you are.

all our love,
Justin + Kelsie