



JOEL & SAMMY



HI THERE —

We're Joel and Sammy and we're honored that you'd take the time to get to know us through our profile. Although it's hard for us to imagine the thoughts and feelings you must be having right now, please know that we have carefully thought through our decision to adopt and see it as an honor to be considered to be a part of your life in this way. We have experienced adoption before and have seen how beautiful it can be even in the midst of the pain. We hope you can feel our love and support throughout your journey.



WHO WE ARE

We are a husband and wife in our early 30's. We have a beautiful daughter named Lennon through adoption and she is our most precious gift. We love to travel and adventure around the world, but at the end of the day we love to be home watching our favorite TV shows and eating pizza while we snuggle our daughter and our dog named Goose.

Some of our favorite things to do are take pictures, go on the boat, play sports, board games, and spend time with our friends and family. Our faith in God is huge part of our life. We believe that He works all things together for good and we have seen His faithfulness throughout our entire lives.



OUR STORY

We have known each other since we were kids. We grew up within a mile of each other and went to the same preschool. In middle school we officially met at our church's youth group and started dating when we were 16. We've been together ever since. We dated for 5 years before getting married in Central Florida in Joel's parents' backyard. It was a special day that we'll always remember. We have been married since 2016. Our story has been one of hardship, growth, perseverance, and love. We have seen God's hand in our marriage throughout it all and we are blessed to be not only husband and wife but also business partners, best friends, and each other's safe place.

In 2024 our family grew when we adopted our precious daughter, Lennon. She has changed our life in the best way and we are so grateful every single day for the bravery and strength of her beautiful birth mama who chose us to be her parents. We love traveling and going on adventures as a family of 3.



10 things I love about
SAMMY

(Written by Joel)

1. She is thoughtful. She loves giving gifts to others that make them feel loved. She is sensitive to how others are feeling and knows how to meet people where they're at.
2. She is a wonderful mom. She does so much for our daughter. She teaches her things, is so patient with her, and does an amazing job taking care of her.
3. She is encouraging and supportive. She's always building others up through her words and actions.
4. She is fun and funny. She doesn't like the attention on her but she loves to make others laugh and create and atmosphere of fun.
5. She is an amazing friend/sibling/aunt to her tribe. If you're one of Sammy's most important people, you know it. She's got your back and makes you a priority.
6. She is devoted. Sammy is a loyal wife and passionate follower of God. She is always learning new ways to better herself through studying God's word and uplifting books.
7. She brings out the best in me. Sammy does not accept 2nd best from me but holds me to a high standard and empowers me to be the best man that I can be.
8. She is selfless. She always puts others before herself and thinks about how she can serve their needs instead of her own. She donates her time, resources, and emotional capacity to others, consistently.
9. Sammy has outward beauty but what's seen on the outside is just a fraction of her inner beauty. Her passion for life draws others in and makes them want to be around her.
10. She is capable. Whether it's CrossFit, photography, design, cooking, building websites, or any of her other skills, Sammy can do whatever she puts her mind to.



10 things I love about

JOEL

(Written by Sammy)

1. His humility. Joel is really good at a lot of things, but he would never make it seem that way. He never brags, but loves to celebrate others.
2. He is everyone's friend! Joel has a way of making people feel known and loved quickly. He is great at asking questions and having conversations with others to make them feel cared for.
3. He is Fun. Joel is the life of the party in the best way possible and everyone who knows him loves him.
4. He is hilarious. Joel has a unique sense of humor. He's never embarrassed and will use any silly voice or do any crazy thing to make people laugh.
5. He is a caring Dad. He spends so much time with our daughter and has learned how to take care of her so well. He knows how to do her hair, picks out her outfits and always makes her smile.
6. He never stops learning. Joel is always using his spare time to learn about things he doesn't know. He also takes feedback and constructive criticism very well.
7. He is a great communicator. Joel is really good at staying calm and speaking in a way that is clear and not defensive. He's also a great listener. He doesn't interrupt, asks specific questions, and knows how to empathize.
8. He has many talents. He can solve a Rubik's cube, play drums, edit amazing photos and videos, wake surf, always wins at board games and the list goes on. I love how unique his talents are.
9. He is loyal. When Joel is committed to something or someone, he gives everything and is constant. He has been my safe place in our marriage time and time again.
10. He loves his family. It is a joy to watch Joel interact with his family. He takes care of every member very well and would do anything for them.



OUR PASSION

Our biggest passion is volunteering for a nonprofit in Africa. Joel's mom started this ministry in 2008 and we serve on the board. This ministry takes homeless children off the streets of Uganda, Africa and provides resources to either reunite them with their family if possible, or take them in as our own and provide counseling, education, life skills and teach them about the love of Jesus. We have visited our staff and children in Uganda every year for the last 9 years and plan to keep going as much as we can. It is truly one of our favorite places in the world. We love these kids so much and have been so impacted by their stories and the healing work that Jesus has done in their lives.

Our experience with this organization was really where our love for children and heart for adoption started. Getting to see the lifechange in these kids over the years planted a seed in our hearts that one day we would adopt a child of our own.



OUR JOB

After we got married we started our own photography business. Since 2016 it has grown into our full-time jobs and a successful business that not only pays the bills but gives us a flexible lifestyle that we love. We have photographed over 300 weddings together and have met incredible people along the way. One of our favorite things about running our own business is that we are able to create our own schedules during the week. We see this as a huge blessing when it comes to raising children because we both get to be home with them during the week since our “workdays” are typically Saturdays. Since our families live within a few miles of us, they love taking care of our daughter when we go to work on the weekends.



LIFE TOGETHER



OUR HOME

We live in a 3 bedroom home in a quiet neighborhood near Orlando, Florida. Our house is across the street from our neighborhood's playground and pool. We love that our house is only a few miles from where both of our parents live and many of our siblings live within 15 minutes too. We have made our home a peaceful place that we love to spend time and work from and look forward to filling it with children.



OTHER FACTS ABOUT US

- We have a dog named Goose. He's 6 years old and the friendliest boy! He loves everyone he meets, especially kids. Him and our daughter are best friends and love to snuggle together.
- We have traveled to over 20 countries together.
- Joel plays the drums.
- We live in the same town we grew up in.
- Sammy likes to paint with watercolor in her free time.
- We love to play board games with our friends.
- We own our own business.

Here are some of our favorite photos we've taken from around the world:





FAMILY —

Family is very important to us and we love our families so much! Our immediate family is the two of us plus our daughter Lennon who is under 1 year old. The rest of our family lives within 15 minutes of us. We're both the youngest of four children. Each of our parents have been married for 35+ years and we have a total of 14 nieces and nephews.

We love spending time with our little nieces and nephews and they love our daughter so much. We're very excited to bring another baby into the family to be surrounded by so much love. All of our family is completely supportive of adoption and has promised to be there with us every step of the way.

OUR VALUES

We believe it is important to know and say the things we value. This is a good way to remind ourselves of the way we want to live. Below are the values we have for our family and try to live by.

- Forgive, even when it's hard
- Family first
- Always tell the truth
- Create memories together
- Speak kindly to and about each other
- Serve others
- Be a safe place for others to share their feelings
- Never judge others



WHY ADOPTION?

Adoption has been one of the greatest gifts of our lives. It has shown us firsthand how love can grow in unexpected places, how beauty can come from brokenness, and how family is built on more than just biology. Becoming parents through adoption has changed us in the best ways. It has strengthened our belief that every child deserves to be fully known, deeply loved, and safe to be exactly who they are. It has also shown us the healing and beauty that can come from building a relationship between us and a birth mother.

There's a theme we've seen throughout our lives —life is never just one thing. It's joy and sorrow, loss and gain, hope and uncertainty. Often, it's all mixed together. We've walked through deep pain, loss, and brokenness, but through it, we've learned how to hold onto hope. We've learned how to fight for each other, how to grow, and how to love more deeply.

We are adopting again because we believe every child deserves a family that will cherish them completely. Our hope is to provide a home filled with love, laughter, and belonging. We want to raise a child who knows they are valuable, wanted, and supported in every step of their journey. And our hope is that you will know that too.



OUR PROMISES

- To honor your child's story and protect it, and yours.
- To raise your child in a safe home where they will always experience love, compassion, support, forgiveness, understanding, and comfort.
- To provide for your child's needs in every way, and to put his/her needs before our own.
- To surround your child with people who love and cheer them on.
- To carefully express to your child the love that you, their birth family, have for him/her and to honor you in every way.
- To create fun memories, traditions and experiences for your child.
- To take your child on adventures and expose them to different cultures and people.
- To teach your child the importance of respecting, loving, and serving others.
- To raise your child to know the hope that is found in Jesus.
- To love your child unconditionally.



THANK YOU

for taking the time to read this. We hope you find peace in this journey and always know how strong, brave and special you are.

With love,

- Joel & Sammy

