



ZACH +

ASHLEY





THIS IS US

HELLO!





We are so thankful for you, and we are humbled to know you are taking the time to get to know us through our profile. We imagine the choice you are making is excruciatingly difficult and terrifying. We are in awe of your strength and selflessness - many would not take this harder path, and we have so much respect for you. Thank you for taking the time to get to know our family. We hope to become part of your story and join hands in parenting your sweet child.

**The foundation for all our decisions is our faith, including our family and heart for adoption. We began talking about adoption when we were engaged, and this desire is still strong nine years later. After having our first three kids, we began praying about completing our family through adoption. We love our kids and our marriage, and we would love to share it. God has given us so much, and we know we will be further blessed by bringing a baby into the family through adoption.**

Our family has so much love to share, and we would love to welcome your baby into our home if chosen by you. Our prayer is that your baby will feel unconditional love, joy, and belonging in our family.

**WE CANNOT WAIT TO GET TO KNOW  
YOU MORE! THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING US  
WITH YOUR TIME AND HEART.**

*Zach + Ashley*

# OUR STORY

BY ASHLEY

We met after our freshman year of college in Nicaragua, of all places. I lived in Georgia and Zach lived in Colorado. We went on a trip with a church to build youth centers. We quickly became friends and connected over our love for running, laughing, and sweets. We remained friends throughout college and started dating after we graduated and began a long-distance relationship. Zach would fly to Athens, where I was in graduate school, or I would fly to Albuquerque, where he began his engineering career. Our dates consisted of being outside hiking, napping, or going on long walks. Because we didn't get to see each other every day, we cherished our visits with one another. We would talk for hours about our interests, hardships, joys, beliefs, and everything in between.

**AFTER A YEAR OF FLYING ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO SEE ONE ANOTHER, ZACH PROPOSED.**

We went skydiving, which was both thrilling and terrifying. After eating lunch, we drove to a mountain overlook. Zach jokes that he was nauseous, from both skydiving and his nerves. At the overlook, Zach told me he loved me which was something we had decided we wouldn't say until we were ready to commit to marriage. He got down on one knee and even though I had a feeling a proposal was coming, I was still surprised and overwhelmed with excitement in the moment. Afterward, we celebrated with a party full of our family and friends.

**WE GOT MARRIED ONE YEAR AFTER GETTING ENGAGED. WE MADE IT A WHOLE WEEKEND EVENT!**

We each had eight people in our wedding party and we took full advantage of having all of our favorite people in the same place. Looking back on the day, we were both calm and simply excited to get married! Our décor was simple greenery mixed in with white flowers and candles. We had a tiered cookie cake wedding cake because it was our favorite! Most of the wedding was spent on the dance floor with our friends. People still tell us they remember how fun our wedding was. After our wedding, we spent a few weeks in Europe. We ate our way through Italy, biked all over Spain, and ended with a week of sailing, scuba diving, and enjoying the beaches in Greece. It was a dream!





WE HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR OVER EIGHT YEARS. OUR MARRIAGE IS STRONG BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH - WE ARE JOYFULLY COMMITTED TO ONE ANOTHER FOR LIFE.

**We simply like being around one another - we are best friends. We would still choose to spend time with one another over anyone else.** Because of this, our communication is fairly seamless. When we do have conflict, we try to be direct and always give one another the benefit of the doubt - we deeply care for one another even if we are in a disagreement. It helps that we find enjoyment in a lot of the same things, but the foundation that we both cling to is that we will always choose each other.

We love being outside, and the five years we spent living in New Mexico continued to grow that love. We enjoy hiking, leisurely walks in the neighborhood, and going on jogs with the family (the stroller weight continues to make it a harder workout). We also really enjoy going to our gym and taking classes together. After our workout, we like to swim or play tennis with the kids. We have a similar sense of humor which has been fun when our favorite comedians perform in our city. We love to read, and most evenings we enjoy a cup of tea with our books to wind down for the night.

AS A COUPLE

# ZACH

## IN ASHLEY'S WORDS

Zach is the most stable person and this has become the most attractive thing about him to me. It's something I didn't have growing up and is the most admirable virtue. He is a hard worker, and he is faithful in all his endeavors. Zach is intelligent and thinks deeply, but he also knows the balance of having fun and enjoying life. People enjoy being around Zach because they know he genuinely cares about what they have to say and he makes life fun. Zach is thoroughly engaged with our family. He cares deeply for our kids and me. His stability and loyalty make our home safe and loving. He is also very faithful in his walk with God and he gently leads us in this. For example, every morning he reads his bible in the same chair and whoever is awake will join him.

Zach's relationship with each of our kids looks different because he is intentional in how he parents each of them. He is always reading a parenting book as it relates to each child's different needs. He is gentle and tender while also being consistent and firm. Our kids love to play with him, and he loves being with them. I believe our kids can sense Zach's delight in them which is such a beautiful thing for a child to know. Most of the time, they like to be silly and wrestle or play tag, but Zach is also unbelievably patient at teaching them and going through schoolwork. He is always their preferred nighttime reader and bather. I know Zach will show the same intentionality in his parenting as an adoptive father. He will read all the books and talk with other parents through adoption to understand and relate.

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ZACH HAS A RARE AND LOVELY COMBINATION OF PERSONALITY TRAITS. HE IS DEDICATED, FUN, SMART, HUMBLE, AND RELATABLE. HE IS FAITHFUL IN WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO AND WHO HE IS.





## Work + Hobbies

I work as a mechanical engineer doing restaurant equipment innovation at a popular fast-food corporation. I chose the job primarily because it is family-friendly, with lots of vacation and time off, including four weeks for me to bond with the baby after adoption placement and an additional four weeks vacation every year. I work from home for about half the week, which gives me the flexibility to spend time with the kids and help out at their school. I do the kids' drop-offs at school in the morning, and I am almost always home in time for dinner and several hours of play before the kid's bedtime.

I like playing and watching sports quite a bit. I went to the University of Colorado and I am a big football fan—this year has been incredible, go Buffs! I play basketball whenever I can, usually pickup with some other dads after the kids go down at night. Hanging out with friends who also have kids is our favorite thing to do as a family on the weekend. One of my favorite things to do lately with the boys is to “play rough”, as my four year old calls it! This is just us wrestling. My favorite thing to do with my daughter is to take her on “dates” and have one-on-one time with her where she gets to pick the activity. This usually includes shopping at the Dollar Store or going for ice cream!



MY FRIENDS SAY I AM A LAID-BACK GUY WHO CARES ABOUT HIS FAITH AND FAMILY. THEY WOULD PROBABLY TALK ABOUT ME BEING AN OVER-THE-TOP COLORADO BUFFS FAN! THEY SAY I'M A GOOD FRIEND WHO PRIORITIZES THE RIGHT THINGS. HOPEFULLY, THEY WOULD ALSO SAY I KNOW MY WAY AROUND A SMOKER AND THAT I CAN MAKE SOME GOOD BBQ!



## Childhood + Parenting

Growing up my identity was as an athlete and someone who was good at school. When I went to college I was no longer the smartest person at school and was not a three-sport athlete. When those things were taken away, I had to decide who I was and God showed me my identity as a Christ follower. He showed me I was more flawed than I ever dared believe, yet at the same time more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than I ever dared hope. This kicked off several big things that shaped me. I went to a summer camp where I gained lifelong friends, I went on a summer mission trip where I met Ashley, and started making decisions based on biblical principles.

There's so much I could say about what I'm looking forward to about adopting. Most people would say we have our hands full with three kids, but we say we have more bandwidth to love and care for another baby and we have dreamed of making adoption a part of our family for a long time. Our family dynamic is very special and is, in a word, fun! With three young kids, there's constantly something going on and someone playing some sort of game. We encourage our kids to play together and they are often outside where there are a lot of other neighborhood kids. A new baby would thrive at our house and never feel alone.

MEET ZACH

# ASHLEY

## IN ZACH'S WORDS

I met Ashley when we were in college and I was first attracted to her heart for people. She went out of her way to prioritize the right things, God and people. I was attracted to a lot of things about her. She was easy to talk to, made me laugh, and had a heart for people who didn't know God. She doesn't care too much about what people think about her, which I admire. I am also very attracted to her intelligence. I love processing things with her and hearing her perspective. She's much smarter and more empathetic than me so she usually has ridiculously good advice. We laugh and have a great time together and I would choose to hang out with her over anyone.

Ashley has a strong sense of justice and sticks up for what she thinks is right, especially when it comes to our kids. I think her superpower as a mom is how she's able to attach to the kids, especially as newborns, which is why she'll make an amazing mother to an adopted baby. She's very intentional about how she bonds with our kids, especially as newborns, researching the best attachment techniques and making sure the kids are developing and attached. Whether she's doing a puzzle and reading with our six year old, playing tag or wrestling with our four year old, or cuddling and singing with our two year old, she is always looking to connect with our kids in a way they like best. She is incredibly selfless, choosing time with our family over lots of other things she could be doing. One example that she does, instead of resting or relaxing on a weekend, she will take each of our kids on a one-on-one "date" so that they feel special. You can see the fruits of that labor as the kids get older and feel secure enough to explore and learn.

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ASHLEY IS INCREDIBLY  
SELFLESS AND LOVES ME  
AND OUR KIDS FEROCIOUSLY.



## Work + Hobbies

I am primarily a stay-at-home mom. I also work in a part-time capacity as a CPA doing business analysis. My job is flexible, and I usually work while the kids are in a parent's morning out program or during nap time. After the baby arrives, I will take time off. For the first year of the baby's life, I will have our babysitter help some. Once the baby is older, he or she would go to the parent's morning out program for a few mornings of the week. While most of our kids' time is spent at home with me, we have loved the socialization and education of the parent's morning out programs. We know most of the families in the program and it is so much fun doing playdates and picnics after school.

My hobbies are reading, baking, taking barre classes, spending time with friends and family, and jogging. Recently my daughter has begun to take naps on Sundays with me on the couch while the boys are sleeping upstairs and it is quickly becoming one of my favorite things. I really enjoy things that are lovely and beautiful like planting flowers, baking a pretty cake, or planning a thoughtful party. I love a deep discussion that leaves me thinking about it well after the conversation has ended.



MY FRIENDS SAY THAT I AM GREAT AT CONNECTING AND DEEPLY RELATING TO MANY PEOPLE. THEY SAY I AM FUN AND GET A LOT OF ENERGY AND ENJOYMENT FROM LEARNING ABOUT NEW THINGS AND PEOPLE. THEY DESCRIBE ME AS A DEEP THINKER WHO ENJOYS MY FAMILY, A GOOD BOOK, A FUN PARTY, GREAT CONVERSATION, DELICIOUS FOOD, AND TRUE FRIENDSHIP.



## Childhood + Parenting

As a result of having to grow up quickly as a child from a broken home and think about the needs of my parents, I became hyper-aware of how my actions made others feel. Because I always wanted to keep the peace in our home, I became a people pleaser. I parent in a way that my kids do not feel this. They have the freedom to be kids and not have the worries of adulthood placed on them. Our kids can feel safe to share all their emotions - good and bad. Conversely, my mother is extremely hospitable and compassionate towards others. I hope to emulate this in our home and pray that it is a safe place for our kids and their friends.

I am greatly looking forward to completing our family through adoption. We have dreamed about this for a long time, and this is something we have been anxiously awaiting. I cannot wait to meet, hold, snuggle, and love our precious child. I envision our family trips, holidays, and normal days with this special baby! I envision the days to be filled with so much laughter and chaos with four children, and we will all go to bed joyfully exhausted.

MEET ASHLEY

# MEET OUR CHILDREN



JUDAH



SOFIA



ALLISTER

Sofia is six years old. She is a hard worker, loves people, has a silly side, and loves anything beautiful. Her interests are drawing, playing with friends, reading, dressing up (mostly as a princess doctor), baking, and playing with her babies. She makes friends quickly and is extremely observant. She is very aware of her feelings and the feelings of others. Even though she's quickly growing up, she loves having her back rubbed at night, and we cherish it!

Allister is four years old. He is very tender-hearted and kind. He is also extremely playful, curious, and silly. He's interested in rocks, superheroes, physical play (running, tag, wrestling with Zach), and being outside. Allister is very smart, a great problem solver, and he loves playing with others. He has a soft spot for his sister and his mom and loves to bring us rocks and flowers.

Judah is two years old. He is very happy and easygoing. He loves to laugh and play. His main interests are reading, playing with his siblings, ball sports, and swinging. He is a delight to our lives and beloved by many. He loves his nightly singing and cuddling, and we hope this will last a long time.



We love having fun! Most afternoons when everyone's done working and home, we play in our backyard or bike and scooter in the neighborhood. On Fridays, we have a family movie night or game night with popcorn and pizza. Sometimes we will invite other families to join. On Saturday mornings, Zach makes pancakes with the kids. Most Saturdays we have some sports activity or a festival. Weather permitting, we enjoy going to the local farmer's market. We usually see friends on the weekend, and we want our kids to see the importance of friendship and community. We are fortunate to be surrounded by many great friends. On Sundays, we go to church and then we go to lunch with Ashley's sister and her family. On Sunday evenings, we like to relax as we prepare for the week ahead.

We go to the beach two times a year, sometimes with friends and extended family and sometimes just us. The beach is our family's happy place because we love the pools, the waves, the golf carts, and all the fun restaurants. We usually like to take a few shorter trips during the year to the mountains or the lake with our extended family. We have made it a tradition to take each kid when they turn five on a special trip with just one parent. Our oldest chose to go to Disney World to see the princesses. Vacations are so special to us because they carve out time when we focus on one another. They have been the sweetest memories for us and we look forward to continuing them.



Our children are blessings from the Lord. We want to honor this identity with our words, actions, and prayers so that they are confident in how both God and we, as their parents, view them. We believe they are a joy and a delight, and we are so grateful to be their parents and to know them deeply.



# PARENTING

We parent with the end goal that when our kids are older and don't have to, they still want to be in close relationships with us and their siblings. We make our decisions on time, money, and parenting based on this. We believe we have a gift for developing strong attachments with our children which is so crucial for long-term emotional health. We always want to be a safe place for them so that they can feel just as comfortable coming to us as a toddler with a scraped knee as an adult losing a job. We love that parenting provides so many opportunities for us to discuss the gospel - that we are forgiven and there is grace. We all mess up, and we always will, and God loves us regardless.

## PRAYING

Our prayer for our kids is that they will grow up with a relationship with Jesus. We want them to know God's love, goodness, and truth. We also pray that they are close to each other and would say they are each other's best friends. We know someday we won't be there to care for them, but they'll always have each other, so we hope they stay close friends through adulthood.



We plan to send our kids to college if this is what they want - we want to be honest with them about the advantages that higher education provides. We have started savings plans for college for them, but if this isn't right for them, we will support them in their plans. We will help them to gain an understanding of their options by providing information and emotional support. The most important thing is that they know we love them, and that we are standing with them.

## PLANNING

# HOME SWEET HOME



WE LIVE IN A FOUR BEDROOM, THREE AND A HALF BATHROOM HOME. WE CHOSE OUR HOUSE PRIMARILY FOR THE LOCATION AND THE BACKYARD. WE HAVE A LARGE YARD WITH A PLAYGROUND, GARDEN, AND OUTDOOR PERGOLA. WE SPEND A LOT OF OUR TIME IN OUR YARD PLAYING! ASHLEY LOVES TO COOK, AND OUR CHILDREN ARE THE BEST SOUS CHEFS, SO WE ALSO SPEND A LOT OF TIME IN OUR KITCHEN!

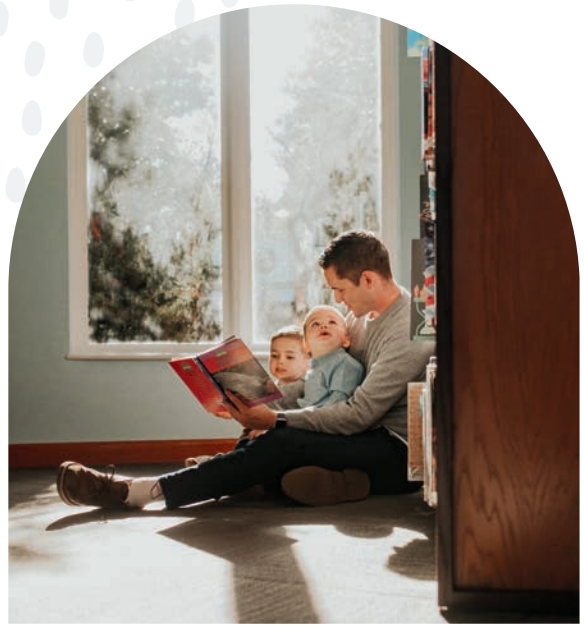


## WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

We live on a cul-de-sac where kickball, scootering, and basketball are always being played. Most of our neighbors are young families and we love that our children have so many other kids to play with. Our house is within walking distance of our city's center where there are many playgrounds, a community center (where the kids do gymnastics, ballet, and karate), restaurants, ballparks, a splash pad, the library (our kids' favorite place for story time and picking out books), shops, and an amphitheater. Our mayor describes our city as having "a small town feel with big city amenities" and we truly love it. Most of our friends are within a five minute drive and our kids are growing up in a true community while also getting to experience the fun of festivals, concerts, and farmers markets in their neighborhood.

While we live in a great city that has everything you could possibly want, we mostly love the community that we have developed with amazing people. We live in Georgia and we are thankful that everything we could want is close by. We take advantage of the short drive to the beach, lake, and mountains. The suburb we live in is catered towards young families. The streets are full of young families with strollers, bikes, and scooters going to the parks, greenspace, or community events. Our city is diverse and celebrates different cultures through festivals. We belong to an athletic club because we love the amenities - the gym, tennis courts, basketball courts, rock climbing wall, and pools are greatly enjoyed by our family!

The local public schools are great. We plan to initially send our kids to a private, Christian classical school where our oldest currently attends, but we would not hesitate to send them to the public schools if it is a better fit. The private school is very close to our house and many of the families in our community attend there. We love the intentionality of the school; from the amount of time they spend outside to the math curriculum to the small class sizes. All the school's decisions are well thought out with the child and his or her development in mind. The academic program and school culture are designed purposefully to promote the flourishing of the children.





# FAMILY

BY ASHLEY

**OUR FAMILIES ARE VERY EXCITED FOR THE ARRIVAL OF OUR ADOPTED CHILD AND THEY CANNOT WAIT TO WELCOME A NEW BABY INTO THE FAMILY.**

We are close with both sides of the family. We see Zach's family at least once a month. Zach's dad, Dan, comes to see the kids once a week. They love to take walks to our pond, visit the coffee shop, and go fishing with Pop-pop. Zac's mom is Vicki, and he has a sister named Emily.

We see my mom, Sherry, at least once a week. Since retiring, she comes to see the kids once a week during the week and we usually see her on the weekends. The kids also love to spend the night at Grammy's house. I am close to my sister, Brooke, and we see her family at least once a week at church and we have lunch afterward. We also see them at the kid's sports, BBQs, or play dates during the week. We are close to them and the cousins are all close in age. Their children are William, who is three, and Thomas, who is two, and they are expecting another boy in March 2024. They have so much fun and we love that they will get to grow up together. Our kids love their Uncle Robert, my sister's husband, and it is wonderful that he and Zach have a close relationship. My childhood best friend, Casey, is also like family to us. My kids call her Aunt Casey and she loves them through quality time.

OUR VILLAGE





# TRADITIONS

## HOLIDAYS AND BIRTHDAYS ARE OUR FAVORITE!

Birthdays are so special because it is a day to make one person know they are loved, celebrated, and known. We always wake the birthday boy or girl up with breakfast in bed (usually Chick-fil-A) and balloons. They get to choose the family activity for the day whether it's going to an arcade, ice skating, or a movie. We also love parties so the birthday boy or girl helps us plan a birthday party for friends and family. These look different based on each of our kids and their ages, but past birthdays have ranged from petting zoos in the backyard for our animal-loving boy, to a cookie decorating party at a bakery for our baker-to-be little girl. It has also simply looked like cupcakes in the backyard with a game of t-ball.

We love holidays and the traditions and celebrations behind them. On Valentine's Day, we decorate cookies and each child goes on a date with one parent. For Easter, we love going to all the egg hunts at our local churches. Our neighborhood rents a big water slide and does a cookout and fireworks for the 4th of July. In the spring and fall, our city has a ton of festivals geared towards family and those have been a favorite of ours. For Halloween, we go to the pumpkin patch with our cousins and our whole neighborhood goes trick-or-treating together. We spend Thanksgiving with both sides of our family by eating way too much and then putting up the Christmas tree. We begin the Christmas season with the advent calendar which has a Bible reading and a chocolate or fun activity each day until Christmas. It is our favorite season, and we have many traditions like looking at lights, making gingerbread houses, and going to a Christmas tea. On Christmas Eve, we go to church and then go out to brunch. We spend Christmas morning at our house opening presents and eating cinnamon buns. Christmas night is spent at Ashley's mom's house for a sleepover with the cousins.







We are currently in a sweet season of watching our family grow and we are overjoyed to be completing our family through adoption. Our kids are constantly changing, and it is such a joy to watch them learn, change, and develop. We wish we could just freeze this time and hold onto it. While it is tiring, these are the good days. We dream for our children to continue to grow in understanding of who they are, grow in their relationship with our family, and grow in connection to God. We also pray this for ourselves - that we learn more about ourselves, grow closer in our marriage and to our kids, and become closer to God.



# OUR VALUES

Our family's values are truth, curiosity, fortitude, and kindness. We pray that biblical truth will inform our decisions, feelings, and thoughts. We want our family to be curious about life, people, and God. This curiosity leads to deep thinking, greater understanding, and fun. We hope that our family can exhibit fortitude - strength in the midst of adversity and believe that they can do hard things because God is on the front line and we, as their parents, are standing right behind Him. Lastly, we strive to be kind to ourselves and others in honoring God's creation and creatures.





## A LITTLE BIT ABOUT OUR FAITH

We are raising our children in our faith through prayer, reading the Bible, and being in a Christian community. We believe the most influential role we can have in their faith is through modeling what we believe - to love God and others. We also strongly believe that the gospel, the good news that God knows and loves you, should permeate our home and our parenting. When we fail or our children fail, God's redemptive love and grace are sufficient. He loves us the same as if we never failed - what a joyous gift!



WHAT COMPELS US IN LOVE

# BEFORE YOU GO



YOU ARE LOVED!

Thank you for taking the time to get to know our family. Whether or not we are the family for your baby, we are so proud of you for loving your baby so well and selflessly. You are choosing the harder path, and we see you. We pray that God guides you and shows you his love during this season of expecting the arrival of your baby.

While we have experience raising three kids, we acknowledge that parenting an adoptee will involve differences. We are already thinking through how to best share their adoption story with them. Our intention is to treat you and your story with the utmost respect; we want them to know how brave you were in this journey and how much we honor your choice. We plan on reading adoption books with them from a young age to kickstart our journey of being attentive to their unique emotional needs and we look forward to teaching them about the love of Christ through their adoption story.

If you are willing, we hope to have an ongoing relationship with you and would like to share updates on how your baby is growing up. Know that we are committed to what is best for your baby and will remain committed for our whole lives.

WE PRAY FOR HIS GENTLE COMFORT AND STILL PEACE NOW AND ALL YOUR DAYS.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS, WE ARE SO GRATEFUL.

*with love,*  
*Zach + Ashley*



