



*our story*

**JESSICA & SEAN**





— hello —

You are probably in the middle of making incredibly hard decisions and we're so thankful you're taking the time to get to know us. It is not always fun or easy to be pregnant and we can't imagine how it would feel to also be considering adoption. We understand that this process can be challenging and we truly want what is best for you and your baby.

We are not just trying to grow our family; we sincerely desire to serve and love you as you decide what is best. We each have always wanted to adopt, even before we ever met! When we were getting to know each other and eventually got married, it was always something we knew we would pursue. We both have huge hearts for children: as teachers who love our students and of course our own kids. We would love to see our family grow, but more importantly, we always have space in our family for a child to be loved. Our hearts are to love others, not just a baby who might join our family, but also desire to walk alongside and support and love their birth family as well.

Sean & Jessica



# OUR STORY

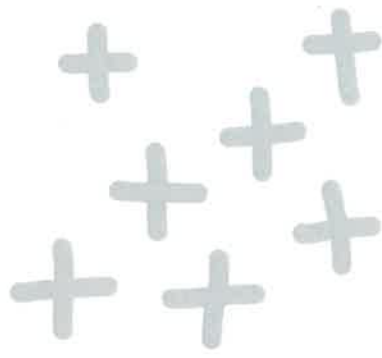
## how we met

We met at the Guatemala City airport on Jessica's 22nd birthday! We were both moving there to become teachers at an American, English-immersion school. We spent a lot of time learning about living in a new country and discovering all the exciting eccentricities of Guatemala. We also spent a lot of time at coffee shops playing games and working. It didn't take long for us to realize there was something special between us. Because we were on the same path and had the same passions and goals, we just made sense.



“  
| We've been married for  
**10**  
amazing years!  
—”





## The wedding

We dated for about two years before getting married, but we knew quickly in our relationship that we wanted to be together forever! Our wedding was a simple affair on a warm, sunny day at the Baptist church where Sean grew up. It was a special day when much of our family came from all over the country to be together to celebrate with us. Our reception was at an old airplane hangar where friends from church coordinated food and brought in a huge grill. We have so many friends and family that have come around us in each of our lives separately and together and our wedding was a great reminder of that!

## our marriage

We just celebrated our tenth anniversary! Although we're not all that alike in terms of hobbies and interests, in the fundamentals and the important things, we're very like-minded. When we got married, we also committed to each other that divorce would never be a joke, threat, or option. We know that we are together forever and therefore want it to be a strong, flourishing relationship, so we're willing to put the work in. Even when we disagree, we ultimately support, love, and make each other and our marriage the priority. We also work to make our relationship a priority. As a couple, we have always enjoyed going out to eat together and doing activities like going to the movies or playing mini golf. We enjoy playing games together at home and with friends. We especially like to attend concerts. Our favorite concerts to attend together are rock or worship shows especially Switchfoot, Dave Matthews Band, and Chris Tomlin. We also like to attend the symphony. We enjoy going to baseball games together as well. While our favorite team is the Yankees, we enjoy watching our local Mariners as well.





MEET

Jessica

My Career

caring

generous

devoted



I work as an educator. I began as a teacher and have taught many grades in elementary and junior high. Currently, I am a Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator, working on the school's curriculum and overseeing professional development and coaching with our teachers. I work full-time, but have a very flexible work schedule and can work at home and in the office. I did not expect to ever leave the classroom, but after having children this has been a terrific compromise, getting the best of both worlds. Since Sean and I work at the same school, we have the added benefit of taking time together or staggered when we welcome in a new baby!

IT'S HARD TO QUALIFY MY FAMILY AS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT, BUT WITHOUT A DOUBT, I WOULD SAY THIS IS MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT. BEING A PRESENT AND LOVING MOM WHILE STILL PURSUING MY DREAMS (GETTING A MASTER'S AND PURSUING A DOCTORATE) AND RELATIONSHIPS HAS BEEN CHALLENGING BUT I BELIEVE HAS MADE ME A BETTER MOM AND I'M PROUD OF THAT.

## IN SEAN'S WORDS...

Jessica is extremely responsible, consistent, and reliable. She is highly organized and does an amazing job of doing things with care and precision. She is very thoughtful and careful to honor and celebrate me and the girls. This could be through birthday parties, gifts, cards, photo books, caring for our material needs, and constantly encouraging and supporting us. She is deeply devoted to her faith and strives daily to grow closer to God. What I have most appreciated in her as my wife is how authentic and reliable she is in her commitment to living to honor God and care for our family. I know exactly where her priorities are and am so grateful for her steadfast love and support for me and our girls.

She has been a teacher for twelve years and a mother for six years. I have seen her thrive working with kids as long as I have known her. One of her greatest strengths is working with children are her ability to consider their physical and emotional needs and make wise decisions on how to provide for them. She is always thinking ahead about upcoming events and moments to plan special opportunities for our girls. She is great at encouraging the girls and teaching them thoughtfully before and during any situation. Perhaps my favorite thing about how she works with kids is her ability to naturally talk about faith. She is intentional in explaining what the Bible teaches about certain situations and encourages the kids to seek God in their own lives. I know that what she is most excited about in adoption is the opportunity to demonstrate and communicate sacrificial love in our family and to those around us.

## My Passions

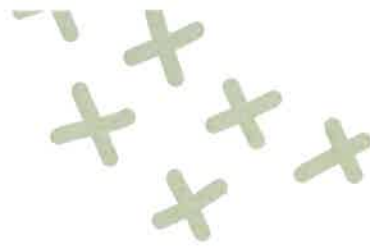
I am also working on a doctoral degree in education! My career is a bit of a hobby because I love what I do, and I love to learn. I also love to read and this is my primary way of relaxing. I enjoy going for walks with my family and alone. My favorite thing to do is spend time at the beach—especially if I get to read there.





MEET

Sean



My Career

reliable

fun

generous



I have been a high school math teacher for sixteen years. I teach a mix of students, grades 9 to 12, and have taught a variety of courses over the years including Algebra, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Consumer Math, Physics, and even Bible. This has been an ideal career for our family with a consistent daily schedule, generous time off throughout the year, and additional personal leave available. I love that being on a teacher schedule has made it easy to spend a lot of quality time with Jess and the girls. When a new baby joins the family, I plan to take a generous amount of time off to bond with them.

I LOOK FORWARD TO GIVING EVERYTHING I CAN TO ENSURE ANOTHER CHILD HAS A STRONG AND LOVING FAMILY AND EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO GROW AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND PURSUE THEIR INTERESTS AND DREAMS IN LIFE. I LOOK FORWARD TO HOW NEW CIRCUMSTANCES WILL CHALLENGE OUR FAMILY AND HELP US TO GROW CLOSER, STRONGER, WISER, AND MORE LOVING.



## IN JESSICA'S WORDS...



The first thing I noticed about Sean was that he is steadfast. This consistently has been my favorite thing about him throughout our marriage. He knows who he is, what he believes, and he does not waver. Sean is quiet and reserved but is very open with his friends. He is also extremely loyal. Even though he is the youngest of four boys, his leadership, kindness, and love for his family are known by his whole family. They jokingly call him “the golden child,” but I believe this is also born out of the fact that he is kind and loving to each of them unconditionally.



Sean is great with kids – in many ways he is a big kid himself! As a high school teacher, he has a strong, no-nonsense, but easy rapport with them. His students respect him immensely, often giving him shout-outs in valedictorian speeches. Our girls constantly ask to play with him because he is not afraid to do exactly what they want to do and be silly right along with them. He is a very calm, steady father. He is able to distract them and make them smile when they're upset. They enjoy asking him to play silly, imaginative games such as hotels, families, and princesses. The girls also frequently ask him to play basic card games and board games. They ask him to race them at the park, play tag or hide and seek, or push them on the swings as well. He is very playful and quick to say yes when they ask him to play. Sean also has nieces and a nephew that he has easily engaged with and been a part of their lives.



## My Passions

I often tell people baseball was my first love. I loved playing and watching as a child and have carried that love into adulthood. I love watching, talking, and playing whenever I can. I also love playing and enjoying music. I play guitar (and other instruments as needed) at church. I love spending time doing anything and everything I can with our girls. Sometimes we will play music together, go to the park to play, make up games to play at home, or ride bikes together. Regardless of the activity, spending time with my family is precious to me.



# MEET OUR DAUGHTERS

Grace



GRACE HARPER IS SIX YEARS OLD AND IS IN 1ST GRADE. IN FRONT OF OTHERS, GRACE IS VERY SHY, RESERVED, AND QUIET. IN FRONT OF PEOPLE SHE'S COMFORTABLE WITH, SHE IS SILLY AND ACTIVE. SHE LOVES TO DRAW, READ, RIDE HER BIKE, AND GO SWIMMING. GRACE LOVES TO SING AND CAN OFTEN BE FOUND SINGING WHILE SHE DRAWS OR PLAYS AROUND THE HOUSE.

Faith



FAITH OLIVIA IS FIVE YEARS OLD AND IS IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN. FAITH IS OUTGOING, FRIENDLY, AND KIND. SHE IS FILLED WITH JOY, BUT SHE IS ALSO SENSITIVE AND FEELS THINGS DEEPLY. SHE LOVES TO DRAW, RIDE HER BIKE, AND GO SWIMMING. FAITH LOVES ACCESSORIES AND DRESS UP. SHE IS OFTEN WEARING SOME KIND OF FANCY DRESS AROUND THE HOUSE OR A TUTU WITH HER TYPICAL SCHOOL CLOTHES.



## grace + faith

Our girls are named Grace and Faith after Ephesians 2:8-9 which says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves it is a gift of God—not by works so that no one can boast." Part of building a strong family is relying on our faith in God.

## becoming big sisters

We have been in the process of adopting for most of their lives, so it is something we have always been discussing with them. They are excited to welcome a new sibling. They often ask about the process, our travels to get them, or set toys or drawings aside for them. There will be an adjustment to adding a sibling, but we think they will be amazing older sisters! We look forward to seeing how our two daughters will welcome a new sibling and care for them—showing them love, playing with them, and keeping them safe.

## a sibling bond

Since they are so close in age (15 months apart), they only know life with each other and can be found playing together almost all of the time. They share a room and love to play princesses, families, and superheroes together.



# OUR LIFE

## Together

Our family enjoys traveling. We took trips to Canada and Oregon this year and we really enjoyed the adventure and time together. We travel to Texas and New York typically once every year or two to visit family. Our children are very familiar with traveling and flying. At home, we enjoy going to the park together in the evenings and we also like watching movies together.



## as a couple...

As a couple we love to spend quality time together. That could include dates to dinner, movies, baseball games, or concerts. Or you can find us relaxing at home, reading, and watching baseball.



## *a day in our life...*

A typical day in our home involves going to school and work, eating dinner together as a family either in the living room or at the dining room table. After dinner, we usually enjoy quality time which is often going to the park or taking a walk. We might play games, do exercise videos on YouTube (in the really dark and rainy months), or watch movies or shows together. To get ready for bed, the four of us read books together, snuggle, pray, and say goodnight. Our weekends together look similar. We try to do some kind of fun family outing whether that's swimming, going to the zoo, doing a light hike, or going out to eat. We all attend church every Sunday morning as well.







## OUR HOME & COMMUNITY

*in the park*

We live in a home with three bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms. We have a yard that is just big enough to play in, but we have a large park right behind our home that we visit frequently. Our home is moderately sized so we each have our own space, but we are still near each other. Our downstairs is open, so the girls can be drawing at the table with one of us in the kitchen and the living room and we are generally all together. Our house is located on a safe, quiet street that backs up to a park.

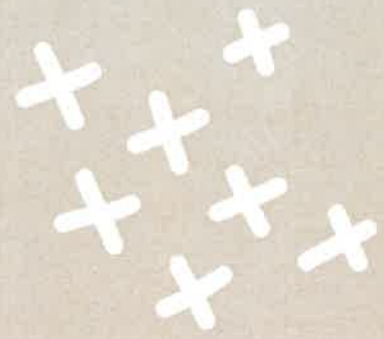




We live in a diverse suburb in Washington state. We live right next door to a large community park with a lake, path, and playground. Our city has a small-town feel in many ways even though it's near large cities. We have a local farmers' market, annual parades, concerts and movies in the park, and a local fair. It is rainy throughout much of the year, but our summers are unmatched. It is mid-70s/80s and sunny for the majority of the summer. We live within two miles of our schools, church, doctors, and other

essential stores. This has created a tight community that we enjoy. We run into classmates and friends in our daily activities often.





our

values



1

## OUR FAITH GUIDES OUR DAILY LIVES.

We desire to serve God with our lives and our family, so we seek to build relationships with those around us. We strive to be friendly with our neighbors, colleagues, and classmates. We also desire to serve in our community and live well with others.

2

## ACTIVE AND INTENTIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY.

This includes work, school, church, and friends most importantly. We are created for close and committed relationships of love and service and seek to fulfill that in our various community settings.





3

### HUMBLY HONORING AND SERVING OTHERS.

We have learned from the loving generosity of so many people in our lives that this is a powerful way to care for others and to show God's love.

4

### QUALITY TIME WITH FAMILY.

We spend a lot of time together in our home and visiting extended family. Family is a reliable and safe space of love, support, and warmth. It is a haven for us, and we work hard to prioritize it.





## SEAN'S FAMILY

Sean's parents are Steve and Kathy. They are divorced and Steve is remarried to Rosie. Sean has three older brothers: Mike, Ryan, and James. Mike is married to Sarah and they have two kids, Ian (17) and Elise (13). James is married to Kahla and has one daughter, Ashtyn. Sean's family lives in New York and he keeps in contact with everyone through calls and texts and we see them when we travel or they come to visit. When we are together, it is typically low-key and relaxed with talking, playing a game, and going see a baseball game or concert.



# JESSICA'S FAMILY

Jessica's side of the family includes her parents, Don and Becky, and her three younger siblings. Her sister Brooke is married to Patrick and they have two daughters: Quinn (3) and Logan (1). Alec is married to Kayla with a daughter Eliana (18 months) and a baby on the way. And Karis is married to Kenrick and they are expecting their first baby. They all live in Texas and we get together several times a year. When we do, it's pretty loud and crazy with so many people but we always have a great time!



WE ARE BLESSED THAT OUR FAMILIES ARE SO SUPPORTIVE OF US AND THRILLED WE ARE ADDING TO THE FAMILY THROUGH ADOPTION!



## our faith

Our Christian faith is important to our family. We attend a local church and have been involved in various ways over the years including worship team, children's choir, bible studies, groups for moms, children's activities, and community outreach. We also work at a Christian school and our children attend the same school. We desire to surround our children with mentors and peers who are pursuing a relationship with Christ. Outside of church and school involvement, we read bible stories, read family devotionals, and generally tell stories and discuss Biblical principles.



## education

Our children attend the private school where we both teach! We love that this gives our family the same schedule and provides them an excellent education. We value giving our children whatever they need to learn, grow, and pursue their dreams.

WHAT WE WANT FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FOR OURSELVES IS TO LIVE  
IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEEP IMPORTANCE OF CHARACTER AND  
FAITH AND TO LIVE AS PEOPLE WHO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS.





## our parenting

Our primary philosophy as parents is to raise our children to know God and serve Him in their life. Every decision is filtered through this philosophy. We desire to coach and disciple our children. When our children make mistakes or misbehave, we are quick to coach and redirect rather than punish. We desire for their heart to be in the right place before the behavior. We love being parents because it is exhausting and fulfilling. There are so many moments in parenthood where we just don't know what we're doing which requires us to surrender our will to God. This is humbling and hard to do, but it is a constant growth experience that has made us better.





# our promise

We want you and your child to know we are here to support and care for you now and in the future. Whether or not you choose us, we are praying for you and the decision you are facing.

We would love to build an ongoing relationship with you! We would love to be able to share about you with your child and have you be someone they always know. We promise you will always be spoken of with love, honor, and respect in our home and you will always hold a unique place in our family!

We promise to love your child and raise them with the same thoughtfulness and love as our two daughters. We aren't perfect parents, but we desire to be the best parents we can be and continue to be learners about all aspects of adoption. We want to honor our child's culture and background, encourage them to embrace these parts of their identity, and create a solid support system that will be inclusive, loving, and welcoming.

Adoption is a beautiful thing. We know that our family will only become more beautiful if you and your child are added to it. But we also know adoption comes with heartbreak. We can only imagine the loss you are facing and know it can't be easy. We promise to love and cherish your child and to always acknowledge the importance of you, your role, and your relationship to them.

We are already and will continue to do whatever we can to love your child and give them a loving family and upbringing.

Sean, Jessica, Cyrae & Faith

