

JOEL & SAMMY

Adoption Profile



INTRODUCTION

Hi there,

We are Joel and Sammy and we are honored that you would 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 don't take this decision or this process lightly and hope you can feel our love and support throughout your journey.



WHY ADOPTION?

There has been a reoccurring theme in our life that we have seen again and again: Life is a paradox. It's joy and suffering. Loss and gain. Hope and disappointment. Gratefulness and devastation, all in one. It's not one or the other, it's often times a mix of all of the good and bad at once. We know firsthand that life is messy (to put it lightly). We have experienced devastating pain, loss, betrayal, and brokenness. But it was through the hard moments that we have learned how to hold onto hope. We have learned how to dig in and not give up on each other or ourselves. We have pursued healing and growth when sometimes it seemed easier to quit. We have learned how to fight for each other. God has showed us that He will use us for His purposes, no matter what our pasts look like or what we've been through. Our story has been hard. Many times we asked God why. Why so much pain? Why so much brokenness? One of the biggest and most obvious answers to the “why’s” for us is [adoption](#).

We believe that we have walked through so many hard times so that we would be equipped to walk through this hard adoption process. We believe that we experienced deep pain so that we could empathize with you. We believe that we learned how to run towards healing so that we could be parents who run alongside a child who might need to do that too. We believe that God does not waste pain. We all carry wounds, but in spite of those wounds we believe we can live a life that is full and purposeful. And we want to show a child how to do that as their parents. So why are we adopting? Simply put, we don't feel like adoption is about fulfilling our own dreams, but about giving a child a loving and safe home where they are free to be whoever they want to be, where they will know that they are always deeply loved and accepted. We dream of being parents who will raise a child to love themselves and others, who can see their story as beautiful and full of joy, hope, and gratefulness in the midst of the hard parts.





WHO WE ARE

We are a husband and wife in our late 20's. We were both born and raised in Florida, and have no children. We love to travel and have seen many incredible places around the world but at the end of the day we love to be home watching our favorite TV shows and eating pizza with our dog Goose. Sammy enjoys Crossfit and Joel plays Pickleball every day.

Some of our hobbies include: photography, boating, playing sports, board games, and spending time with our friends and family. Our faith in God is also a huge part of our life.

OUR STORY

We attended the same preschool but really met in middle school at our church's youth group. We started dating when we were 16. After 5 years of dating we got married in Central Florida in Joel's parents' backyard. We have now been married for 7.5 years.



10 things I love about
SAMMY
(Written by Joel)

1. She is responsible and reliable. When she receives a task, there's no question that she'll get it done.

2. 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.

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 an 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. She is attractive. 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 excels at 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 most fun person I know. He 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 smart. He values efficiency and is very intelligent.
6. He never stops learning and is eager to learn. Joel is always using his spare time to learn about things like politics, investments, camera gear, marketing, video editing, and more. He also takes feedback and constructive criticism very well.
7. He is a great communicator. Whether he is explaining a concept or communicating feelings in a disagreement, 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. Joel is a bit of an anomaly. 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 and widespread his talents are.
9. He is loyal. When Joel is committed to something or someone, he gives everything and is constant. He has proved to be 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 are privileged to be on the board. We are able to encourage our staff in Uganda as well as take photos and videos to raise awareness. We've each been to Uganda 8 times and it is one of our favorite places in the world. We love these kids so much and visit them at any chance we get.

Our experience with this organization was really where our love for children and heart for adoption started. The ministry takes children in desperate need and gives them a new home, education, and love. Getting to see the life change of these kids over the years planted a seed in our hearts that one day we would adopt a child of our own.

CAREER

Shortly after we were married we started our own photography business. Over the last 7.5 years, 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 are able to create our own schedules during the week while we run our business and we see this as a huge blessing when it comes to raising a child.



FAMILY

Family is very important to us. We come from big families; both the youngest of four children. Each of our parents have been married for 35+ years and we have a total of 11 nieces and nephews.

Our families spend a lot of time together as almost everyone lives nearby. Sometimes it's a simple family lunch on Sunday where we sit around the table and share what's going on in our lives. Other times it's spending the day on the boat or swimming in the pool.

We don't have any children of our own but we are a big part of the lives of our nieces and nephews. We love attending their sporting events, school programs, and spending intentional time with them. We are very excited to have a child that will grow up living so close to their cousins. All of our family is completely supportive of this adoption and has promised to be there with us every step of the way.



OUR PROMISES

To raise this child in a safe home where they will always experience love, compassion, support, forgiveness, understanding, empathy and comfort.

To provide for this child's needs in every way, and to put his/her needs before our own.

To honor this child's story and protect it, and yours.

To surround this child with people who love and cheer them on.

To carefully express to this child the love that you, their birthmother, have for him/her and to honor you in every way.

To create fun memories, traditions and experiences that this child can cherish.

To take this child on adventures and expose them to different cultures and people.

To teach this child the importance of respecting, loving, and serving others.

To love this child unconditionally.

LIFE TOGETHER



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

