

The Smiths:

Dean, Jess, Judah, Lucy and Hosanna

Hello, and thank you for considering us. We want to stand by you and walk through this with you. You are being courageous and making a brave choice. We have been praying for you for a long time and already care very much about you.

We both knew we wanted to adopt even before we met each other. As Christian's, we believe that we have been adopted into God's family and that adoption is a beautiful picture of God's love for us. We have always wanted four kids, and knew that we wanted to adopt at least one of our children, we just didn't know the order. After having three biological children, we are excited to complete our family by adopting!



Looking fancy for our 10 year wedding anniversary

Our Family

Since we live in beautiful Santa Barbara, you will often find us outdoors: going for bike rides, riding scooters and skateboarding along the boardwalk, playing at the beach, disc golfing in the park, hiking along the ocean, or camping in our tent trailer. When we are inside you will probably find us cuddling on the couch and reading children's books, playing board games, cooking, or dancing along to our favorite music. We always sit down at the table together for dinner.

On Sundays you will find us at church with Dean playing drums for the band.



Beach Camping Trip



Thanksgiving Day 5k



Disneyland Trip

Our Story

We met and fell in love during Dean's last year at Cal Poly. Dean swept Jess off her feet and we were married ten months later. We both continued our education and were married for five years before we welcomed our firstborn son Judah. Now, over ten years later, we have three biological children and are excited to complete our family by adopting.

Jess about Dean

Where do I start? I have so much to say about the love of my life; he loves me so generously. He is the oldest of four siblings and they all look up to him. He is smart, hardworking, and excels at his job as an engineer. He went back to school and got his Master's degree while still working to provide for our family. He is an incredible husband and father, he always makes spending time with us his top priority. He is the rock of our family and leads us to God. It brightens my day to hear him making the kids giggle and watch them be silly together; they absolutely adore their papa.



Our
wedding
day

Dean about Jess

I am the lucky one in our relationship. Not only is Jess breathtakingly beautiful, she is my best friend. We do everything together and repeat a lot of the same stories. I enjoy her sense of humor and her competitive spirit; especially when we are playing board games. Before we had children, she continued her family tradition of graduating from the University of Arizona. Jess is an amazing stay at home mom and it puts a smile on my face watching her take such good care of Judah, Lucy, and Hosanna. She loves to decorate for each holiday and orchestrate special family memories. Jess is the heart of our family, she teaches the kids about God and helps me to be a better parent.



Judah's 5th Birthday
Party



Valentine's
dinner with our
Bible study



Hiking
the
Grand
Canyon



Judah

Judah is a warm, outgoing, fun-loving, six year old. He enjoys creating things with Legos, Lincoln Logs, or drawing. He is interested in music and is learning to play piano. If he is outside he is probably racing on his scooter, playing whiffle ball in the backyard, or jumping on the trampoline. He loves reading and making his sisters laugh and calls every person he meets a friend.



Lucy

Lucy is our adventurous, giggly, four year old. She adores her big brother and loves being a big sister. She is a budding chef in the kitchen helping Jess with dinner or Dean making a big breakfast on Saturday mornings. She really enjoys dance class and is often twirling around the house in a princess dress. She is full of life and love.



Hosanna

Hosanna is our darling two year old. She loves to play hide and seek with her siblings or knock down the towers they build out of toys. She takes excellent care of her baby dolls and wants to be a part of everything her brother and sister are up to. She loves music and has epic dance moves.



Our Home

We live in a 4 bedroom 2.5 bath house with a big backyard that has lots of space for the kids to play. One of the bedrooms is a nursery with a rocking chair for story time and snuggles. We are walking distance from a playground where we enjoy playing on the swings or launching a stomp rocket. We live by a bike trail where we ride our bikes from our front door to the beach. Our neighborhood is a friendly mix of 'grandmas' who stop by with cookies and kids to run around with.



Water gun fight in the backyard



Bike ride to the beach



Camping out in the living room



Board games in the living room



Delivering Christmas cookies for neighbors



Playing in the backyard sunshine



Why Adoption?

We both have wanted to adopt since we were young. Before we got married adoption was one of the things that drew us together because we both said adoption was very important to us and something we wanted to pursue. Our mutual heart for adoption is one of the many reasons we know we are soul mates. Dean first knew he wanted to adopt when he heard about orphans around the world in high school. Jess first had a heart for adoption as a little girl because she didn't grow up in a typical family and a lot of people took her in, loved her, and "adopted" her.

Jess as a little girl always said she wanted to adopt when asked, "How many babies do you want to have?" Dean grew up with three siblings all close in age and has many wonderful memories with his siblings. We hope to have kids close in age too so that they are best friends. Adopting our fourth will be the cherry on top of the cake of our family!

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. You are making a very important decision. We recognize that adoption is such a privilege and we are honored that you would consider us. We want to hold your hand and support you throughout this process.

With love and gratitude,
The Smiths

P.S. The kids can't wait to be a big brother and sister again