



- Matt and Sydney -





## We Are Matt and Sydney -

We cannot imagine what you are going through right now as you make this decision. We want you to know that our family has so much love for each other and we cannot wait to have another child to love in the same way that we love our son. We have faith that your decision will be the right one whether you choose us or another family.

I have always felt led to adopt one day. When I met Matt, he did not take any convincing. Our adoption journey started over 2 years ago, but we had to put it on hold for a while because I found out I was pregnant – a miracle in itself. We have continued to pray that God show us when the time is right to resume the journey and we feel that He is telling us that now is the time.

We started trying for our second child in January 2012. At my annual exam in October, the doctor agreed to start running some preliminary blood work to see if there was anything obvious going on to explain why I had not gotten pregnant. Honestly, we were expecting normal results because our son was barely a year old. However, we found out that I am very unlikely to get pregnant again on our own. Our doctor referred us to a reproductive specialist but even before our appointment, we had already started talking to each other that this might be a sign from God that we needed to pursue adoption again. The specialist confirmed what we had already been told. He said that if we wanted any chance of having another child, we needed to do IVF and very soon. We walked out of the meeting knowing that we were not pursuing that route.





# Our Lives Together

We met on Match.com in November 2009. Neither of us are the type to go out somewhere and hang out meeting people. We had both decided to try Match.com. Matt had just moved to the area for a job. We spoke for a few weeks online. On our first date we went and played pool. We knew what we were looking for and I think we both knew almost instantly that we had found our soul mates. Within weeks I met his family. We dated for almost 3 months before getting engaged. I had decided that I wanted to pronounce Jesus as my Lord and Savior through Baptism (I was baptized as an infant). My baptism was on February 7, 2010. Afterwards, Matt and I went to dinner. It was a Sunday night so we went back to his place to call it an early night. We were sitting on his blow-up mattress (he was a bachelor and never bought a bed when he moved) talking about the day, when he pulled the ring out. Talk about a big emotional day. In a big way, it sort of describes us though. We don't have to do something super extravagant or fancy in order to show each other how much we love each other. We get such joy out of simple things. The worst part was having to drive back to my house an hour later when all I really wanted to do was relish the day.

We were married 9 months after our first date. We got married in my parent's back yard. My mom loved that we did that and loved having our wedding at the house where I have most of my memories. My grandparents flew into town, my parent's, my sister's family, Matt's brother, and a few of our closest friends were there. Our families are all over the place so it was small but it was perfect. Matt's best friend growing up married us and that was awesome. His wife was my wing woman in getting things organized. It was a truly special day.

We love to be with our families—Sundays at my parents or a weekend with Matt's parents. We like to be outside working in the yard, taking a hike or a walk, playing with the dogs, or just sitting on the back patio. We like to travel when we can. We have been to Ireland, Oregon, and Washington. We would love to do much more. We love to lie on the couch and watch movies. We like to go to church where we meet my parents and often spend the day together. The pool is a favorite during the summer.







Sydney is very easy to get along with. When she speaks you know that she is speaking from the heart and is thoughtful of others. She is extremely humble and this is one of the first things that attracted me to her. She has a very good sense of humor and brings light to every situation. She carries herself well and treats everyone equally. She is passionate about life, family, and faith. She is a "stand by your side" wife and an equally amazing mother to our son. I have enjoyed watching her motherly qualities grow each moment of caring for and raising our son. She is very smart and likes to challenge herself to continue learning. She takes every circumstance and applies it in life through her faith and determination. She will sacrifice whatever is needed for our family and that makes for a wonderful home to raise children. I feel like a lucky man to have found her and look forward to spending the rest of our lives building our family and making memories.

When I first met Sydney, there were not any nieces and nephews in her immediate family but when her nephew was born, I could see that she possessed the nurturing quality it takes to interact with and love children. She was a 6th grade Social Studies teacher for 7 years and I would listen to her stories about her students on a daily basis. There were a lot of times where she had to help children deal with adversity. She always had a few shining students that adored her and looked up to her as a role model. She has quite a lot of experience with children and guiding them on the right path. I truly believe this is one of her "gifts". She loves to teach but for now she has chosen to be a stay-at-home mother. One day, when our children are older, she will return to teaching because she loves it so much. She absolutely shines when she is with our son. She practices unconditional love and is an outstanding mom. When we spend time with our family, she jumps right in with the kids and plays with them. They have come to love "Aunt Sydney".











## My Husband, Matt

Matt is a quiet, humble person. He does not like to be the center of attention and is very quiet when he is getting to know people. However, he is also very quick to show his big heart and share his faith. He is loving. He would do anything for those he loves and often those he doesn't even know. Everyday Matt makes me feel like I am the center of his universe. God gave me a true gift in Matt. He works hard so that I can stay home with our son. Matt has not had the easiest past, but he has really used his past to make his future better. His faith that God has a plan is something he does not just take at its word, he really believes that God has given him certain struggles so that he may become stronger and that there is a plan for him to use those struggles for good.

Matt loves children and children love Matt. When Matt and I first met, I immediately saw the bond he had with his nieces and nephews. He lived with them for a time before moving to another state. He really struggled with not being able to see them regularly. When we do get to see them, they are so excited to climb all over him and play with him. Matt gets just as excited about it. When we had our son, I quickly discovered that Matt is one of the most hands-on dads I know. He was always willing to get up in the middle of the night, feed L.J. his bottle, change diapers, and still make it to work in the morning. Matt never misses a moment that he can spend with L.J. in favor of something else. Because of that L.J. just loves his Daddy. Matt now goes to work in the afternoon so L.J. does not get to see Matt at bedtime anymore. In the mornings, L.J. wants to rush through breakfast because he knows that as soon as he eats, he gets to go wake up Daddy. Every morning my heart just melts when we walk in the room and he sees Matt. The grin on L.J.'s face is priceless. Matt can be a kid and crawl around on the floor, sing silly songs, and play games but he also takes on the responsibilities like no man I have ever known. I could not have picked a better father for our children.









## Our Son, L.J.

Lee Jayden (L.J.) is 14 months old. He is just about the sweetest boy I know. He always has a hug or a kiss and since the day he was born, he has just exuded happiness. He was almost 3 months premature. He had a rough start but you would never know it by looking at him now. He is our little fighter. He has always been a great sleeper which Mommy loves. He loves to talk. He will not be a shy child. His current favorite word is "door" but his vocabulary is very decent for his age. L.J. loves playing with his cars. He loves his older cousin, Sam, and any other child that may cross his path. He loves to be outside when the weather is nice. He likes hide and seek.







## Our Family and Friends -

My parents live close by and we see them regularly. I have 1 sister who also lives close by. She has 1 child and another one due soon. Matt's parents and most of his family live in other states. We see them as often as possible. He has 3 brothers and 1 sister. One of his brother's lives close by and we see him on a regular basis.

As a family, we love to be outside playing in the grass, going to the playground, or the pool. We had a great time going apple picking this fall and to the pumpkin patch. We love to be with family. We always love a good pajama day when the weather is nasty, where we play at home for the day, racing cars, playing hide and seek, or cuddling on the couch. Our son, LJ seems to share his Dad's taste in music, they play guitar and dance. We cannot wait to travel more once our children are old enough. Earlier this year, we raised money for the March of Dimes and that was a great family experience that we all got to enjoy by completing a 10k. My parents and my sister and nephew got involved along with a few close friends. We were named "Rookie of the Year" for raising almost \$6000 in our first year. This is a cause that is near and dear to our family because of L.J.'s early birth.

We spend most of our holidays at my parent's house with my sister's family. We have been known to make it to Matt's families for holidays as well. The past few years have been a little crazy with babies, but growing up, we always went skiing in Colorado over Christmas with my parents. It is a tradition we hope to resume after our family is complete. We recently had an Elf on the Shelf appear at our home and we cannot wait for him to start visiting next year. Oh the plans the elf has already. We cannot wait to develop our own holiday traditions as our family grows.











## Our Home and Community

Our house is 22 years old. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. It sits on  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre. We have many trees to play in and we have a fenced back yard and we cannot wait to put in a swing set. We have a separate playroom that L.J. loves. It is not huge, but it is cozy and meets our needs. We actually downsized when our son was born because we decided that our priority was for me to be able to stay home with our son. Being home with him is more important to us than the square footage of the house. With the amount of land, we can easily add another room down the road if we want a little more space.

We live in a quiet neighborhood on a quiet street. There are many children and one of my closest friends since 8th grade lives across the street with her husband and 2 little ones. It is somewhat diverse. The schools are great and very close by. The bus stop is right outside our house. We do not have a swim/tennis community but we have many parks close by and we are active members at the local YMCA. We go there to swim and can get involved in as many sports or activities as we want. The largest playground in our state is only a couple of miles away and we love it there.









## - Our Future -

We love talking about the future together. We also know that plans can change, so we always talk about the future with that in mind. There are a few things that we are sure of. We will stay in the state we live in now. Our children will grow up in a Christ-centered home and their happiness will always be our priority. I will stay home with our children at least until they are in school. At that point, I will plan on substitute teaching or working part time so that we can be active in our children's classrooms and in their extra-curricular activities. We will get our children involved with the church youth group as much as possible and we will encourage their educations and goals. We will do what best meets the needs of our children. Being a public school teacher, I do believe that many children's needs can be met in the public school setting. However, I also believe there are some children better served in different ways. This is a decision we will make with prayer and guidance when we get there.

We appreciate you taking the time to look at our profile and get to know us. We are praying for you in what must be one of the most difficult decisions you will ever make.

*God Bless You,  
Matt and Sydney*

