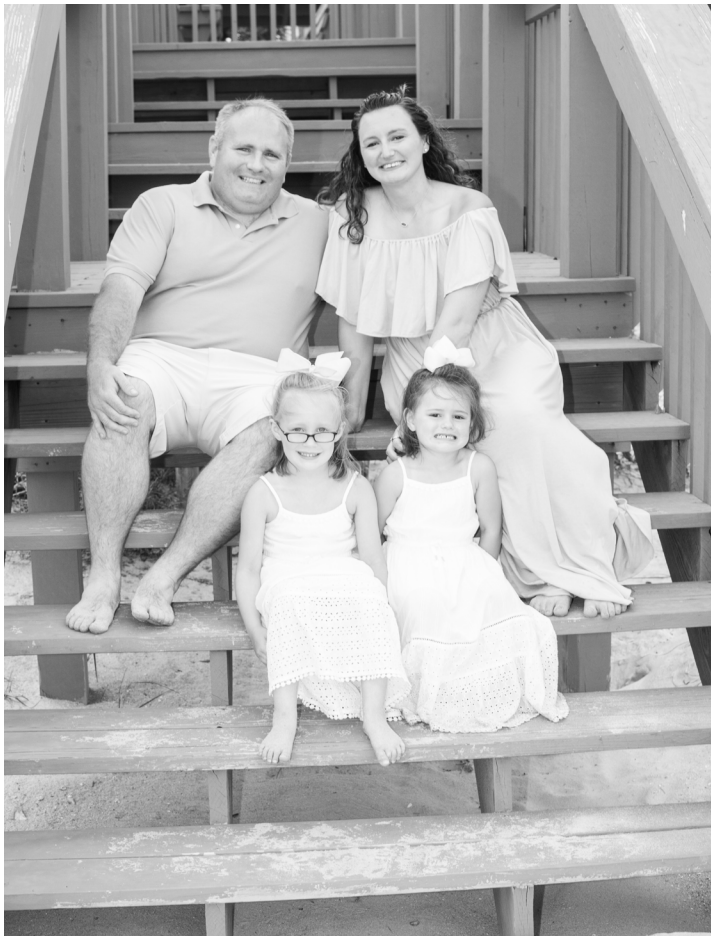


Sara-Kate + John







hello!

As you find yourself flipping through the pages of our book, please know we have been praying for you and your child. Even though we haven't met you yet, you are loved, admired, and respected by our family. We know that there are decisions you are currently facing, and we want you to know we are praying that God guides you through them. Adoption, to us, is a beautiful illustration of the gospel. We believe adoption is less about gaining a child and more about giving a child a home. We hope and pray to welcome a new baby into our home, and in doing so, we hope to welcome you into our lives. Together we will find our way through this journey.

We are not new to adoption; it has always been a part of our lives. John was adopted as an infant by his amazing great-aunt and uncle. He has seen first hand the blessings adoption brought for his birth mother, his adopted parents, and especially himself. Adoption has touched our hearts and our lives in such a way that we have felt God calling us to take the same steps as John's parents took. We've been blessed with two beautiful daughters, each one completely her own person in every way! Even though we have spent the last seven years parenting our own children, our desire to adopt was never forgotten. It has stayed a constant, on-going conversation. And now we've finally felt God whispering, "It's time."

To say our girls are excited is an understatement. Wesleigh-Kate has stated she's willing to sacrifice her own room for our newest addition, in exchange for bunk beds, and Kinsley is over the moon at the idea of "baby-sitting" a baby forever! Wesleigh-Kate is a typical oldest child. She has made numerous checklists and is so excited every time we take one more step closer to adoption. Kinsley is eager to become a big sister and have a baby to love and care for. Since Kinsley is the youngest, Wesleigh-Kate has been schooling her in her new role as an older sister!

We aren't perfect. We don't pretend to be. We are a love hard kind of family. We are a family who builds memories through experiences and takes tons of pictures! We like movies on Friday nights, cheering on the Clemson football team on Saturdays, and being in church with family and friends on Sundays. We are so excited to take this next step to grow our family!

With love,

John & Sara-Kate



our story

OUR LOVE STORY IS MY FAVORITE STORY TO SHARE.

John and I grew up seven years apart and just across the river from each other and never knew it! I actually attended the same dance studio as his niece (there is an age gap between John and his sister), and he attended my dance recitals! We laugh at this! My mother also would buy delicious cakes from his neighbor, and yet I never knew him until I was 18. It is amazing to us how close we were and yet so far away. God was creating a beautiful story for us, and it truly is a beautiful story!

John and I met online in 2009. I was a freshman in college, and John had just returned home and had started his career after college graduation. I was writing an argumentative essay on how online dating was a bad way to meet someone. Oh, how wrong I was! John was my third match on the dating site I chose. We knew from the moment we met one another we were getting married. We dated for 8 months before John proposed, and the next year we were married.

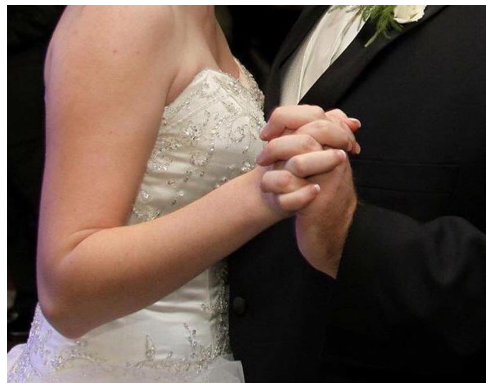
We were married on a beautiful Christmas Eve eve day! Yes, December 23, at five o'clock in the afternoon, we were married. The day also happened to be my grandparents' 56th wedding anniversary. I am named after my grandmother, and it was only fitting to be married on her wedding day, in the same church, at the same time.

We've been together a total of ten years, and I'll say I can't remember my life without him. Without him I wouldn't be half of who I am today. It has not been the easiest road at times, and John and I have seen our share of struggles, but through it all we have leaned on the Lord, leaned on each other, and learned so much along the way. We aren't perfect, but there is no one else we'd rather do life with.

John likes to say the reason he drug his feet in college was so he could be where he needed to be to meet me. It's funny how our decisions and circumstances put us right where needed to be, exactly when we needed to be there. If I had to write my essay all over again I would hold a completely different position, and I'm so thankful I would.



TRUE
LOVE





HI! I'M

Sara-Kate

"Sara Kate is truly my "person," who I turn to for support and encouragement, and who I have the immense pleasure of walking through life with."

I am a South Carolina native and I couldn't imagine living and raising my children anywhere else. I am an avid reader, history buff, and a slight Disney addict. My mother instilled my love of reading, my father fueled my passion for history, and my Disney obsession is mine alone. I love the warmth of summer, spending time on the beach or the pool with a book in hand. I anticipate the first cool day of fall where I can curl up by the fire and read. I was still in college when John and I were married, My college experience and becoming a mother all happened at the same time, and being completely honest, it wasn't easy. However, it was a time where God guided me and shaped me into who I am today. I'm not perfect by any means, but I know that I have learned a lot and continue learning everyday. I taught first grade for three years before I became a stay-at-home-momma. I now volunteer at Wesleigh Kate's elementary school where I read with students and help the teachers any way I can. I also visit Kinsley's school and read books and make crafts with her friends.



WHAT JOHN LOVES MOST

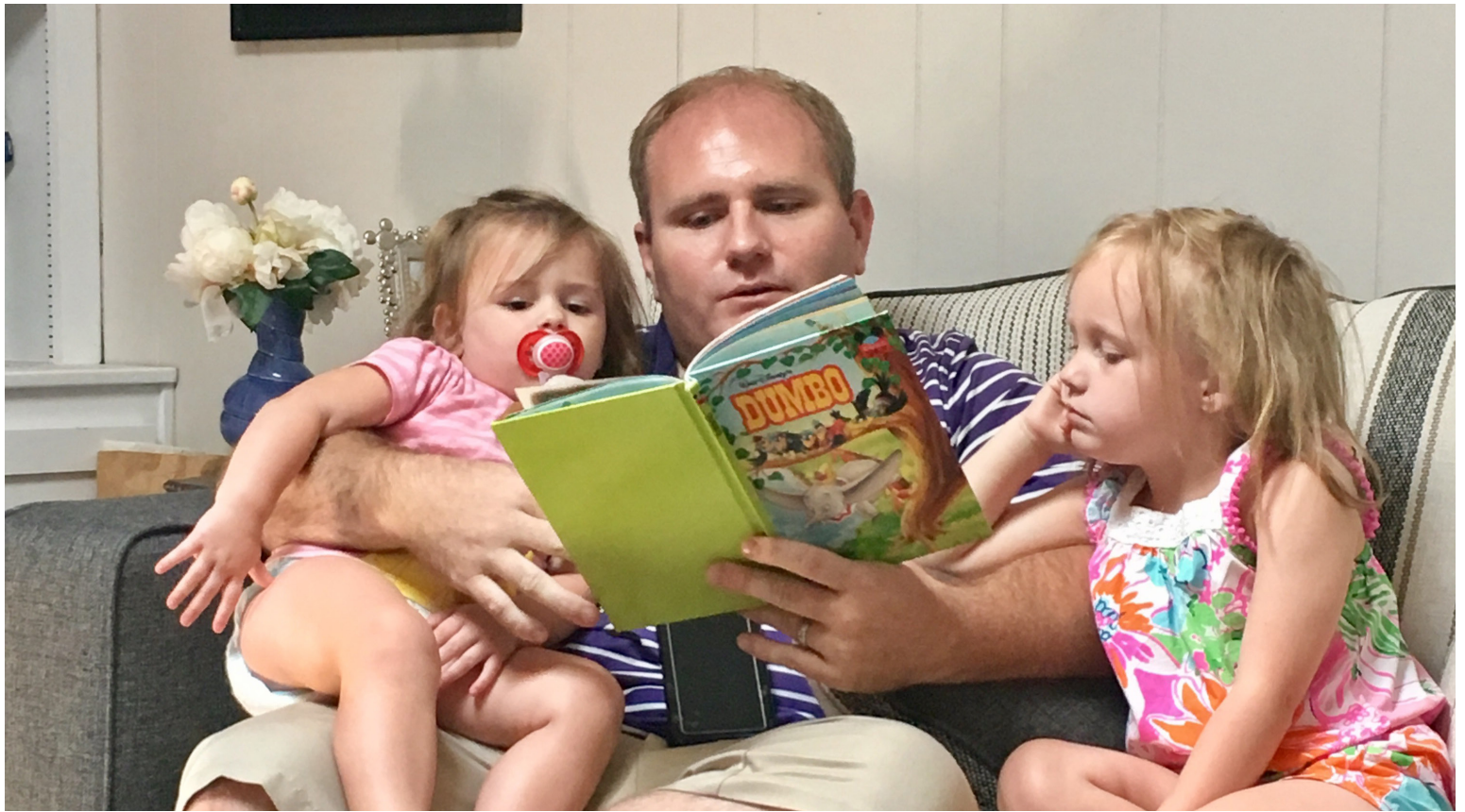
I FELL IN LOVE WITH SARA KATE THE FIRST TIME I MET HER. Her eyes are the windows to her soul, and I love how they sparkle and light up when she talks about us and our future, our family, and the child that God will bring into our lives. She is the most caring, kind, patient, and compassionate person I have ever known. She loves her family with her entire being, and sacrifices her own needs, wants, and dreams for our family everyday. She works hard to be sure the girls and I have everything we need, and miraculously, she figured out a way to put up with me. Sara Kate is truly my "person," who I turn to for support and encouragement, and who I have the immense pleasure of walking through life with.



HEY! I'M John

“He is not a hands off dad; he cooks, cleans, helps with bath time, reads bedtime stories, and he taught our girls to pray.”

My life was touched by adoption at an early age by family members. I was a couple years out of college when I met Sara-Kate and that has been the best thing that has ever happened to me. I currently work in the healthcare industry as an operations manager for an imaging equipment company. It is pretty safe to say I am a homebody and there is nothing I look forward to each day than getting home to my family and spending quality time with them. I enjoy reading, fishing, being outdoors, and spending time with friends and family. I love the outdoors and look for any opportunity to get outside. Even if it's to just sit on the front porch with a cup of coffee and watch the sunrise. As a kid, my family spent a lot of time camping, and I'm glad Sara-Kate and I can continue that tradition with our own family. With all that said, the most important thing to me is my wife and girls. I can't remember life before them and I look forward to adding another beautiful child to our family to love.



WHAT SARA-KATE LOVES MOST

JOHN IS THE MOST SELF-SACRIFICING MAN I KNOW. Everything he does he does for his family. I have loved him from the moment we met; everything from his blue eyes and contagious grin, to the importance he places on his family. He is the rational to my irrational! He is the pillar on which I stand, and he walks this life with me never complaining, and always thanking the Lord for what we have, even when we didn't have much. He is not a hands off dad; he cooks, cleans, helps with bath time, reads bedtime stories, and he taught our girls to pray. I couldn't love him more than I do now, but I said that ten years ago. I love his heart, his determination, his loyalty, and his never-ending love for the girls and me.



meet our WONDERFUL DAUGHTERS

WESLEIGH-KATE

Wesleigh-Kate is 7 going on 17! She is our Christmas Eve baby and believes she is extra-special because she and Jesus share a birthday! She is obsessed with science, reading, constructing things with Legos, taking dance and gymnastic lessons, crafting, and playing outside in her playhouse. She wants to be a million things when she grows up - teacher, scientist, architect, hair-dresser, and fire-woman, just to name a few!

She loves going to The Waffle House, eating quesadillas at our favorite Mexican restaurant, and will do almost anything for a chocolate bar! Wesleigh-Kate has the typical personality of an "oldest child," and loves trying to "mother" Kinsley. She is overjoyed about our family growing through adoption and is eagerly awaiting the day we are chosen!

WHAT SHE THINKS ADOPTION IS:

"where people adopt babies to give them a good home."

DREAMS OF BEING: "a teacher, and maybe everything I could be."

FAVORITE SONG: "Old Town Road"

LOVES TO: "working puzzles, drawing and writing, and gymnastics."

KINSLEY

Kinsley is 4 years old, and she brings so much joy to our lives! She was our sweet Easter Eve baby, a perfect gift from the Easter Bunny! She is a ball of giggles and jokes! She loves all things Beauty and the Beast, playing pretend, reading Brown Bear, Brown Bear, and Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, painting, playing outside, taking dance lessons, and going to school with her teacher! She wants to be a doctor, a shopper, and a friend maker, when she grows up!

She loves going to Chick-fi-la, eating tacos anywhere that serves a taco with rice, and eating the left-over icing from cinnamon roll Tuesdays! She is the child God gave us to add more laughter and pure happiness to our lives. She is beyond excited that there will be a new child in our home soon! She is eagerly willing to give up her bedroom for the baby!

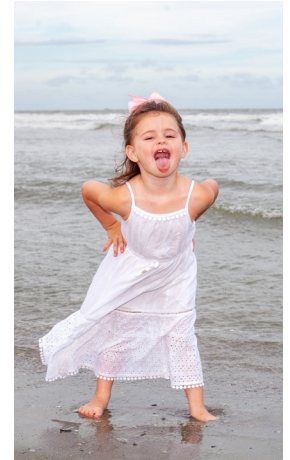
WHAT SHE THINKS ADOPTION IS:

"helping babies be good."

DREAMS OF BEING: "a fireman."

FAVORITE SONG: "Beauty and the Beast."

LOVES TO: "play with Dottie, (our puppy), going to school and going to dance class."





OUR HOME

We live in a growing town in South Carolina. We live just on the outskirts of town on a small piece of land. We love where we live. We have the peace of country living with all the amenities of living in town. Even though we don't live in a neighborhood, we still engage a lot with our neighbors and in the community. We love being outdoors! John recently built a fort for our girls and they love spending their

time out there! John and I love spending time on our porch with a cup of coffee soaking in the morning sun, and warming up by the fire in the evenings. We tried to create a home that is warm and inviting. We love having friends and family over for all sorts of things! John loves smoking BBQ, and sharing his talent with everyone!

a few of our FAVORITE THINGS

We love camping! We love being outdoors and exploring new places. We camp with friends and family, and our girls love the weekends where we are "disconnected" from the rest of the world. We love college football, so our fall Saturday's are filled with cheering on the Clemson Tigers. We are also big Disney fans, and travel there every few years to make lots of memories.



family TRADITIONS

Easter has been held at our house for the last two years.

We love going to church Sunday morning and then having a huge lunch spread with friends and family.

We started the tradition many years ago to spend a week at the beach with Sara-Kate's family.

We have a fun-filled, but relaxing time at the beach. We love the days on the beach or by the pool!

In the fall we love having day trips to local farms for pumpkin picking, partaking in hay rides, and venturing to the apple orchards to pick apples.

Halloween is always celebrated at Aunt Donna's house where we order pizza and trick-or-treat in her neighborhood.

Thanksgiving has also been held the last two years at our house.

Since our families live so close to each other, Sara-Kate's family eats a Thanksgiving lunch, and John's family has Thanksgiving dinner! It's safe to say we are STUFFED!

Christmas is probably our most favorite time of the year.

We celebrate Wesleigh-Kate's birthday; she was born Christmas Eve. We attend a Breakfast with Santa at a local high school, where we get our pictures taken with Santa Claus. We enjoy candlelight service with Sara-Kate's family, and Christmas Eve dinner with John's family. We then host Christmas Day lunch at our home!





SARA-KATE'S FAMILY

My family is large, loud, and loyal. There isn't a lens large enough to zoom out far enough to show the magnitude of my extended family. Regardless, we love spending time together, even though we might have to squeeze! We love going to my aunt's house for a pool day, having ice cream

with my grandfather on Sundays, and all that is in between! My grandfather likes to say that, "any day spent with grandchildren is a national holiday!" Our girls have lots of people to love on them! My entire family is over the moon to welcome a new child into our home!





JOHN'S FAMILY

My family might be small, but we are close and loving. Because of my adoption, my sister was already married when I came along. This meant I grew up with a nephew and niece who were more like siblings to me. Regardless of our age gaps, our family stand with each other, and love each

other. My parent's strong Christian faith was the root of my upbringing and it's something I try to pass on to my own children. Our girls love spending time with their Aunt Gigi and Uncle Bo Bo, uncle Josh, the fireman, and sweet baby Oliver. My family is eagerly awaiting our new addition!





***We believe what makes us unique** is that our family was touched by adoption long ago, and for us it has been a ten year conversation. We are very open with John's adoption, and we hope to be an encouragement to others with his story. We are very open with our girls about their dad's adoption. **We want our girls to learn that families don't have to match, love makes a family.** John was adopted by his amazing Great-Aunt and Uncle at birth and he has seen first hand the beauty of adoption. He has seen the positive impact adoption had not only for himself, but his birth mother, and his adoptive parents. John has seen first hand that love is sacrificial, an action, a verb. John knows the questions, thoughts, and feelings that come with being adopted, and we feel we have a unique way of being a support system for the next child that blesses our home.*

