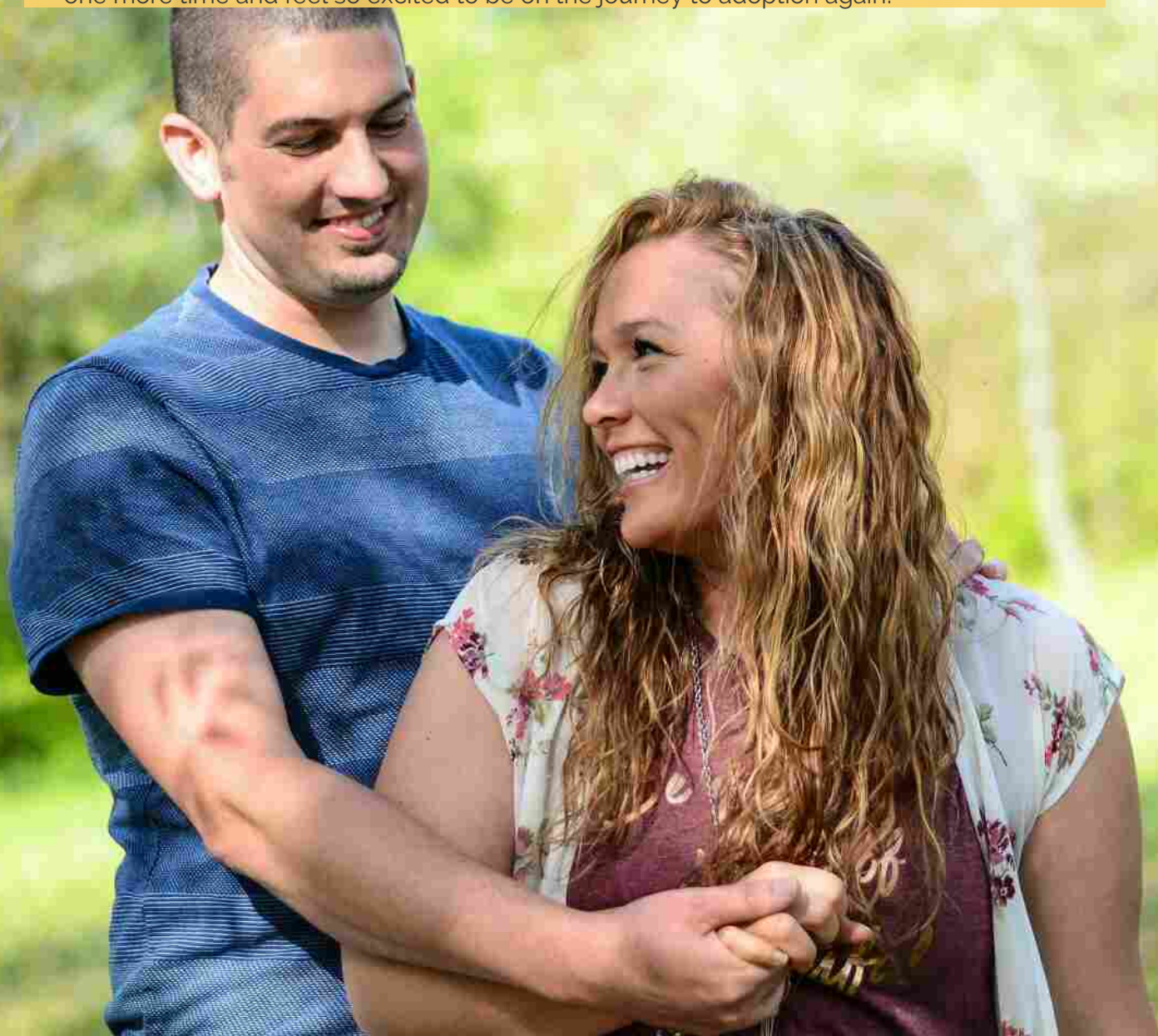


STEPHEN *and* KRISTIAN

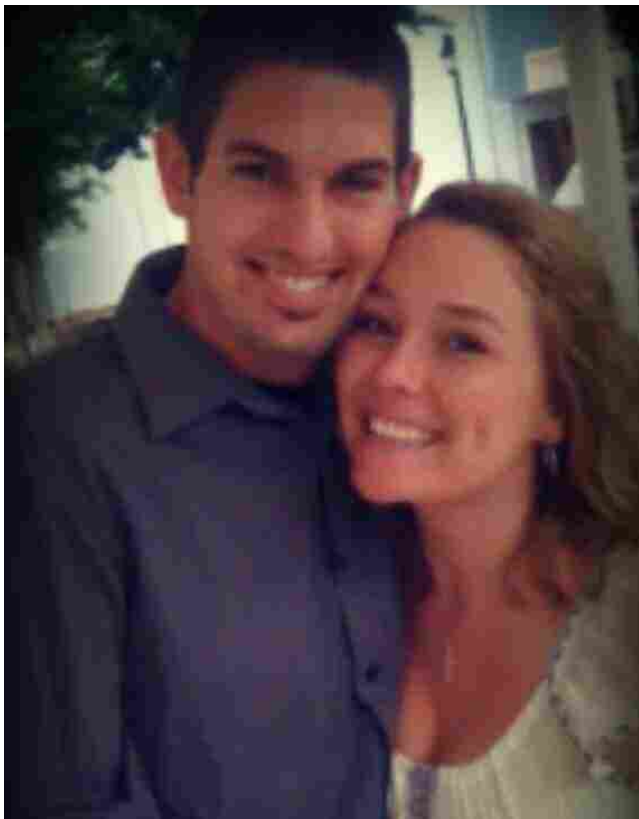


# Why Adoption

We have always wanted a large family and from the beginning of our relationship felt that adoption would be a part of our story someday. After my high risk pregnancy and dangerous delivery with our five year old son, we were advised that future pregnancies could be dangerous for me. We decided that we would have my fallopian tubes removed and continue to grow our family through the beautiful gift of adoption when we were ready. September 2017, Stephen and I began discussing adoption and decided to pray about it, together and separately. In October 2017, after much prayer, we decided together that we really wanted to start our journey to adopt. We adopted our sweet Joey in July of 2019. We love him so much and our family has been infinitely blessed by adoption. His first momma is so precious to us, we love her and honor her in all that we do. We want to grow our family one more time and feel so excited to be on the journey to adoption again!



# our STORY



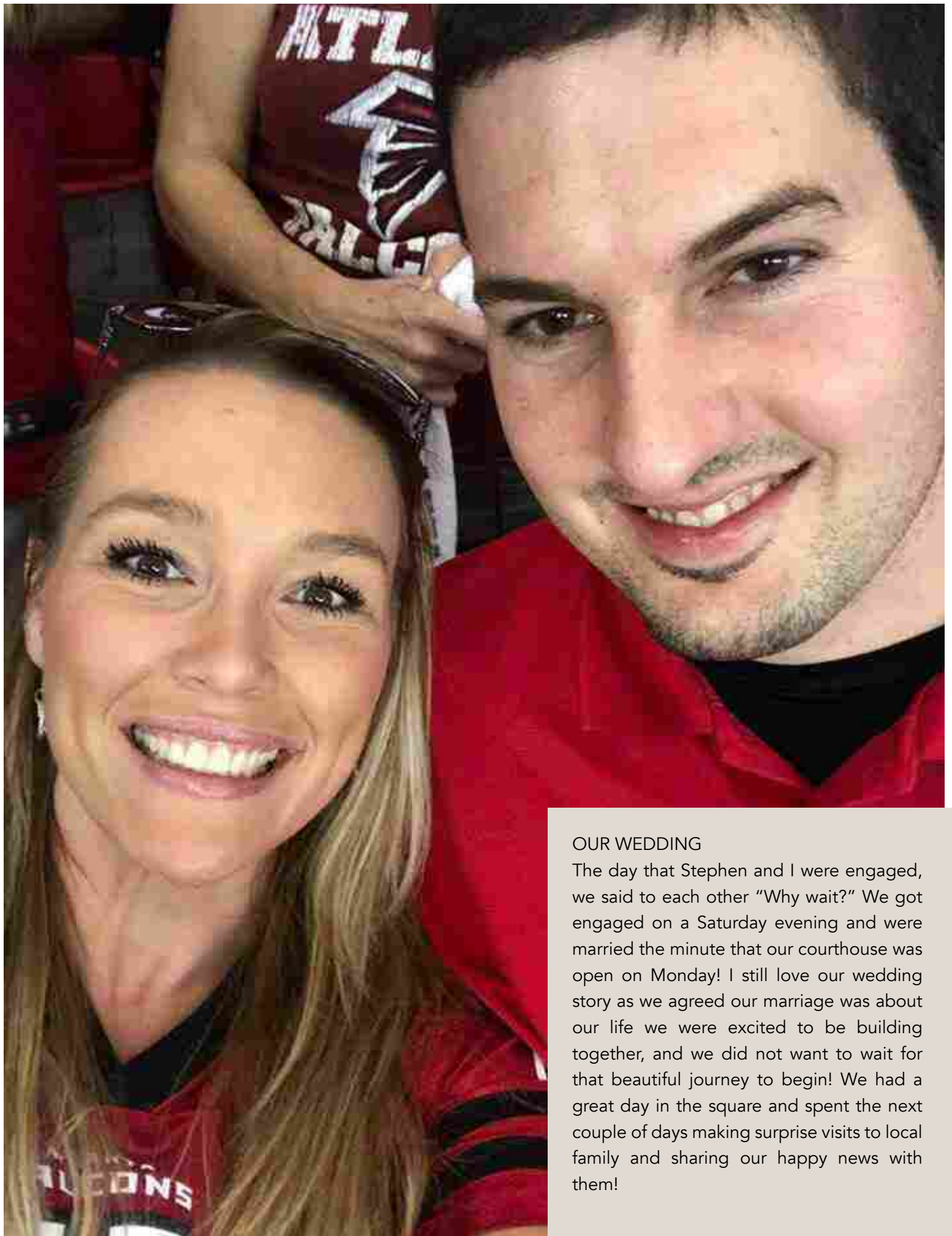
## HOW WE MET

Stephen and I met in 2006! I was a receptionist at a medical supply company and he was my FedEx delivery man! I would schedule my breaks for the time I knew he would be there for pick up, every day and I would chat with him as he loaded his truck, he started to realize that I was conveniently on break when he was there and after a couple of months asked for my phone number! We became close friends before realizing we wanted to be a couple!

## HOW I KNEW MY SPOUSE WAS "THE ONE"

I honestly knew Stephen was "the one" before we even began dating. He is so honest, genuine and kind. It was apparent to me right from the start that he was special and God led me to him for a very specific reason. I knew I wanted to marry him after the first deep conversation we ever shared. We had a long talk about our future goals and families and beliefs. He shared with me his love for his family, appreciation for God and his faith, and his desire to become a dad and be a GREAT one. I remember telling my mom "Man, he sure is a catch!" Looking back on that conversation, so many years ago, it warms my heart to know the man he is today and how much of an amazing father and husband he has become. Not a day goes by that I don't thank God for blessing me with the best husband on the planet. He is a rare, unique and beautiful person.

I instantly knew my wife, Kristian, was the one from the first time I saw her. I could not get her out of my head from that moment forward. She worked at one of my delivery stops and I anticipated that part of the day from the time I woke up, even though it only represented about 5 minutes total out of my day. I still can't believe that she gave me the time of day, and I am so grateful and feel so lucky to be able to call her my wife. She was and still is way out of my league! I thank God for letting us cross paths the way we did. I knew I wanted to marry her right away after realizing we shared the same goals, ambitions, and views on God, family, and life in general. It was so obvious that she was the one I wanted to raise a family and spend the rest of my life with!



#### OUR WEDDING

The day that Stephen and I were engaged, we said to each other "Why wait?" We got engaged on a Saturday evening and were married the minute that our courthouse was open on Monday! I still love our wedding story as we agreed our marriage was about our life we were excited to be building together, and we did not want to wait for that beautiful journey to begin! We had a great day in the square and spent the next couple of days making surprise visits to local family and sharing our happy news with them!



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## MEET *Kristian*

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### **WHAT STEPHEN LOVES ABOUT HER**

My marriage to Kristian has been what I've always dreamed of. She is beyond loving and caring and I cannot imagine my life without her. She holds this family together and always gives 110% to ensure that myself and our children are happy. She is the most selfless person you could ever imagine. She is truly a one of a kind wife and mother who is the most thoughtful and giving person I have ever met. She does whatever it takes to make sure that our children have a wonderful and memorable childhood that is filled with love and

laughter. I love to watch her with our children. If she's not doing arts and crafts with them, she's outside playing, or swimming with them. Kristian really enjoys singing. Our kids love to listen to her, whether it's just a song on the radio, or the song she made up that she sings to them when picking them up from school, asking how their day was. One thing I love about her is her bedtime routine with the kids, where she reads and prays with them. She is sincerely the definition of a great mother. I couldn't be more blessed to call her my wife.





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*meet* **STEPHEN**

**WHAT KRISTIAN LOVES ABOUT HIM**

My husband, Stephen is an incredible example of a loving Dad and husband. He continues to amaze me every day with everything that he is able to accomplish and how he does everything with such enthusiasm and a happy spirit. I feel so blessed to be able to share my life with such a kind, genuine, hilarious man. He is a true born leader and is leading our family with his awesome example. Stephen never misses a project, performance, game or party. He makes sure that he is always present for all the big and little moments in mine and our children's lives. He always makes you feel important in his presence and is a GREAT listener and advice giver. He is so patient and level headed, I have never seen him lose his temper! I've never met a better encourager. When you leave a conversation with stephen you're naturally filled with confidence to take on the world. He encourages our children

with great intention, hoping to fill them with the confidence to reach for their dreams and never stop trying. He enjoys his quality time with the kids and drives them to school in the mornings. I cried the first time I rode along and heard the mantra he had taught them to say as they exited for school. The girls got out of their seats and said " I am smart, I am successful, I am a leader, things are always working out for me, I can do anything I put my mind to, today I will be a blessing in the lives of others and will always stand guard at the the door of my mind and stay positive." Imagine how touching it was to hear that he had intentionally come up with a positive set of affirmations for our daughters. He is just so thoughtful and caring towards others, especially me and the kids. I love this man and all the wonderful attributes he possesses and feel so blessed to be able to call him my husband.





meet our  
**KIDS**



## *Gracie 10 years old*

Gracie is 10 years old, she will be 11 in April 2021. She is so kind and very funny! She loves cheerleading and is very good at it! She is an animal lover and loves to read books and learn about animals. Her favorite animal is the cheetah and she can basically tell you anything you could ever want to know about them. She is a great artist and loves to sketch, draw and paint! She loves school! Bible and Spelling are her favorite subjects, she won the regional spelling bee last year and was invited again this year! She loves being a big sister and loves quality time with her siblings. She is so loving and thoughtful and always loves to be a helper! What do you think about a new sibling? "I can not wait to have another baby brother or sister!"

What will you teach the new sibling? "I like to read to Charlotte, Michael and Joey, so I would like to read to the new baby, too!" "Maybe I can teach the new baby to color!"

How do you think our life will change? "I think it will be more fun"

## *Charlotte 7 years old*

Charlotte is 7 years old and will be 8 in February 2021. She is very sweet natured, quiet and sensitive. She is very caring and so considerate of others. She LOVES being a big sister to Michael and Joey and takes pride in helping to teach them things. She loves second grade! One of her favorite things to do is read. She is very artistic and loves to paint and color, she makes pictures for us every day! Charlotte loves to dance and is a cheerleader. She loves to be surrounded by family and is very excited about adding another child to the family.

What do you think about a new sibling? "I think it is going to be so much fun!"

What will you teach the new sibling? "I will teach them to draw and play with Tucker (our golden retriever)."

How do you think our life will change? "I think we will have more fun."

## *Michael 5 years old*

Michael is 5 years old, he will be 6 in October 2021. He loves to play with his sisters and be read to. He is obsessed with his little brother, Joey! He loves playing with our dog and being outside. Michael loves to swim and is generally a very happy kiddo. He is loving Pre-K and is learning so much every day! When we have asked him if he would like to have a baby sister or brother he says "yes" with enthusiasm and is super excited at the idea, he loves babies! He says he can not wait to have another brother or sister to play with.

## *Joey 14 Months old*

Joey is 14 months old. He will be 2 in July of 2021. He loves life. He is funny and so smart. He loves his siblings and our dog, Tucker. He is a very happy toddler and loves our big family. We are sure he will be excited about the new addition.



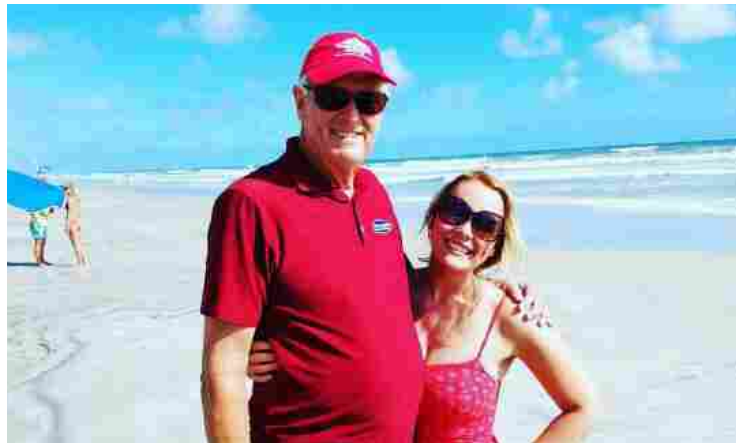






## *fun facts*

- Stephen LOVES to read, it's one of his favorite things to do and he loves to share his love of reading with our family. He actually reads to me! How sweet! Right??!?
- Kristian loves to sing. She makes up little songs for the kids all the time and they love to huddle around and listen to her. A lot of them are silly and made up as she goes and end in eruptions of laughter from everyone.
- Our favorite volunteer opportunity is Hope for Christmas. It's a huge Christmas event that our church hosts every year to help children in need enjoy a Christmas celebration and allow their parents to get gifts for them. I seriously look forward to volunteering for this event all year!
- Stephen is REALLY funny and can always find a way to make our family laugh!



## Kristian's FAMILY

I am very close with my family, immediate and extended. I talk to my parents every single day. My parents are still married and I have one younger sister. My mom and dad (Gigi and Papa) and younger sister Erica, live in Dubai, where my dad is a pilot. My mom comes here to visit us for about a month every summer and my parents come together with my sister every fall to see us for about a week. My parents are the kindest and most supportive people you could ever meet. They are our biggest cheerleaders and are always here for us, no matter the distance. My kids look forward to their trips home and on their weekly calls with my parents leading up to their visits will count how many days or "sleeps" are left until they can see each other again. Their bond is so precious, I am so blessed by my parents and how they love Stephen and the kids. They are SO excited to add to our family and have been praying over this journey every day.

My Grandfather, Aunt, Uncle and younger cousins, we make a trip once or twice a year to visit with them and the kids look so forward to that trip! My aunt and I have always had a very close bond and I look up to her so much. She is a great mentor and advice giver, she is so kind and genuine and I feel so blessed to have her as a mentor and example of a Christian wife and mom. My cousins are in teenage years and young adulthood and absolutely love every moment they get to spend with our kids! They are so sweet and make them feel so important and loved! My grandfather, Big Papa is precious to me. I love him so much and value our bond immensely. I feel so blessed to

be able to share him with our kids. He took our family to Disney last year and we had such an amazing time with him and created so many unforgettable memories!

My other set of grandparents live in Las Vegas, NV. We see them once a year, whether they come visit us or we go visit them, we are very close and I enjoy conversations with them every week. The kids look forward to their frequent skype time with Nana and Grandpa! My Grandpa is so funny and he keeps the kids laughing, they love hearing his jokes and stories! My Nana is so kind and loving, she always makes time to connect with the kids on skype and loves hearing all about what is going on in Georgia.

Growing up in my house was fun! My dad is really funny and seemed to be able to make any situation fun and laughable, it's no surprise that I ended up marrying someone with that same quality. My mom was a very nurturing mom, she was a stay-at-home mom and she was always there for me, my dad, and my sister. She embodies all the qualities that make an amazing mother and I hope I am like her! I always felt loved and encouraged as a child and strive to create that same support for my family now. Christmas was HUGE in my house as a kid, my mom had so many traditions from sweets we would bake together to crafts we would do every year. She was always singing and her excitement for Jesus' birthday was absolutely contagious. Those are my favorite memories, and now she has definitely passed that to me, as my family refers to me as "The Christmas lady." We have kept many childhood traditions alive in our home and have created a few new ones, it's still my very favorite time of year!



## Stephen's FAMILY

so many cousins to play with down there and they look forward to our trips down to Florida as much as I do.

My family is very big and very close! I have a mom and step dad (Maw Maw and Paw Paw) and a dad and step mom (Grandpa and Yaya) that I am very close with and love very much. My dad and step mom live about ten minutes from us so we see them a lot. My dad and I are very close and it is really cool to see him as a grandfather to our children. Kristian and my dad's wife are really close, she really looks up to her and loves her like a second mom. They are always there for us no matter what and always put family first. Grandpa and Yaya are such warm and caring people, they are always praying for us and their presence is just so loving! My sister on my dad's side lives here in GA as well. She is in her teenage years and is such a good aunt. She is growing up so fast and is becoming a great role model for our kids! I am so grateful that we live so close to them and are able to spend so much time together.

My mom and step dad live in Florida where 5 of my seven sisters as well as my brother reside. My other sister lives in VA. The distance between my parents, my siblings and myself does not affect our bond. We are all very close and keep in touch on a daily basis. My family is so funny, whenever we are all together, it's always constant laughter! My relationship with my siblings and parents is important to me, so we make sure to make it to Florida at least once a year for a visit. Our kids have

Our closest friends also happen to be my family. We are closest with my cousin Corey and his wife Lauren. Kristian and Lauren are best friends and our two families spend a lot of time together. They live really close to us, so hanging out with them is so convenient and we spend time with them a few times a week. Their kids are close in age to ours so our get togethers are always filled with lots of laughter and excitement! These two are our prayer warriors and never cease to encourage us! We are so blessed by our bond and friendship!

I'm am so lucky to be able to have a very close relationship with my grandparents! I love that they only live about ten minutes away from us. We call them Nanny and Pops. Nanny and Pops love nothing more than they love their grandchildren and look so forward to their weekly visits! We go to their house every Sunday before church for breakfast and to chat and hang out. Nanny likes to throw cute little tea parties for the kids and surprise them with treats. It's a true blessing to be able to witness her with my own kids and she is SO excited about our decision to add to our family!



# OUR HOME



We love our home and neighborhood! We just moved in November 2018 and have already found great friends in our little culdesac. Our home has 5 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms and a very warm, inviting feel. Everyone's favorite part of the house is the living room. We spend most of our time together in the living room, dining room and outside! Stephen and I enjoy sitting on the back patio with each other at the end of the day and talking while the kiddos play on the playground!

We live in a HOA community in a smaller city. We absolutely love our neighborhood! We actually decided to move because of all that the neighborhood offers for our kids and whole family. There is a water park in our neighborhood as well as nature trails and a huge playground. We love being outside and can not wait for the summer so we can enjoy all the outdoor fun!

