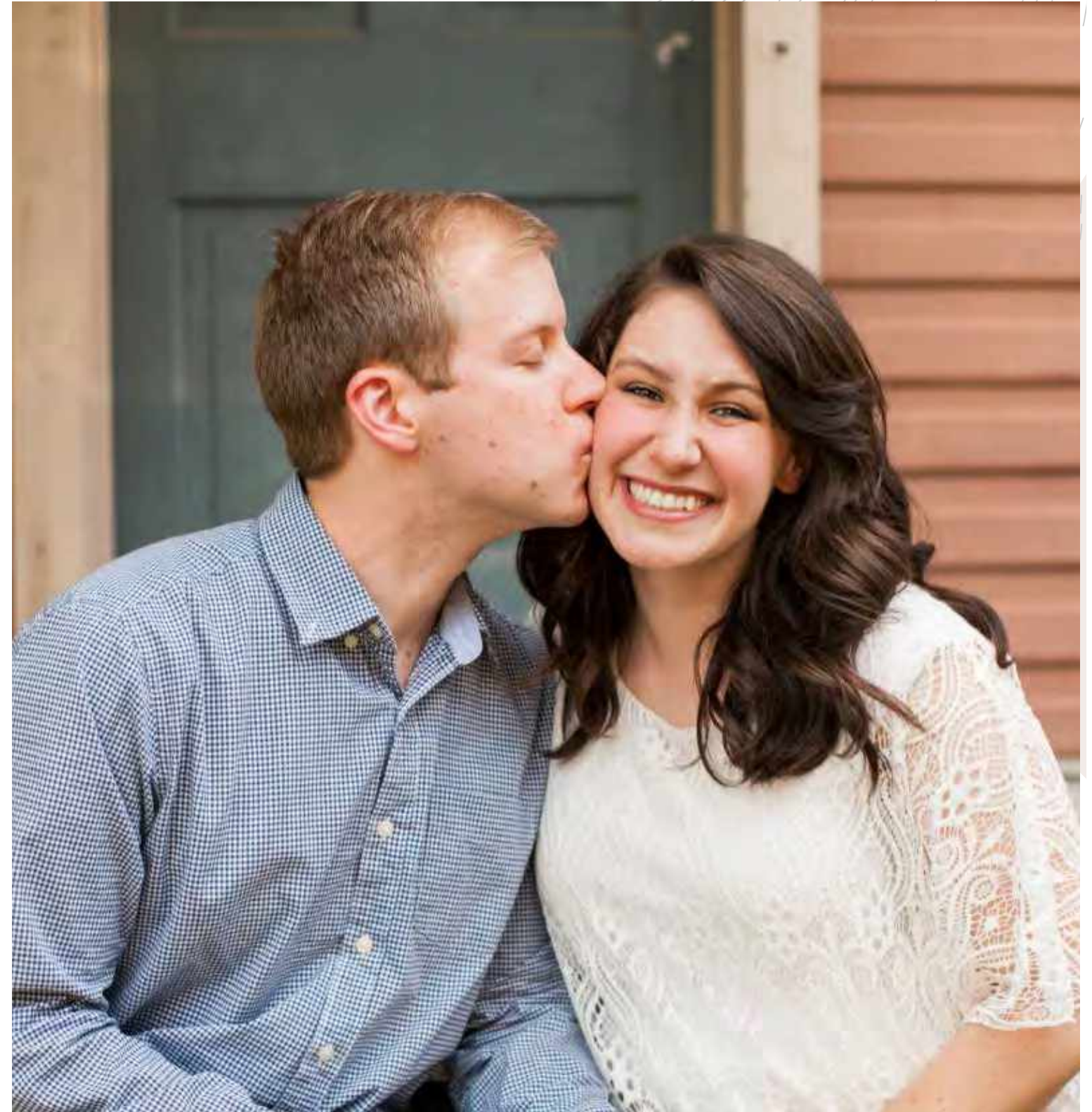


ASHLEY & JUSTIN





thanks
for opening our book

hello

This is the story of a girl from Texas and a boy from Utah that decided they kinda really liked each other. (Okay, maybe a lot...)

Since then, they have been married almost four years, gone through college together, kitchen dance parties, pregnancy loss, plenty of audiobooks, and much more.

Now you're here because this little family is looking to adopt! We hope you enjoy getting to know us just a bit, and we dearly hope for the opportunity to get to know you better as well!

Ashley & Justin



"FAMILY

Where today's little moments become tomorrow's precious memories."

why we are adopting

Everybody has a story. In the adoption world, these stories are very personal and close to our hearts.

Ours began before we even met. We both grew up in big families, and have always wanted families of our own. Long story short, that vision began to change as we entered our teenage years.

Ashley was diagnosed with a couple of autoimmune diseases that, at the time, we didn't think would have any impact on our having children in the future, but after getting married, we found out otherwise.

Up to this point, we have not been able to carry a baby to term. The hardest was a little boy we lost almost two years ago when Ashley's water broke on Easter Morning too early for our little one to make it.

Since then, we have decided it would be healthier and safer to explore other ways to bring children into our home. Now, here we are!





meet
Ashley

**ASHLEY IN
THREE WORDS:**
Creative, nurturing,
compassionate

INSPIRED BY:
My parents, their
love for us and
each other

Ashley thrives on her relationships with other people. I would define her as an extrovert at heart because of how quickly she forgets her own needs when she is with friends and family. Her late-night conversations with friends and family are a perfect example of this, though she treasures her relationships with children just as much as any adult friend.

I love watching her with our little nieces, nephews, and cousins because they are always smiling around Ashley. She gives them her undivided attention, is quick to give out praise, and is very fun to play with. I think one of the hardest parts about COVID-19 for Ashley is how hard it is to not give the kids hugs!



One of the last things I will say about Ashley is she loves to create. It doesn't matter if she has a power tool or a pencil, she loves making new things.

FUN FACTS about ASHLEY!

Favorite Food: Seafood, anything with LOTS of flavor, and chocolate!

Job: Training Engineer - The Dibble Institute

Geeky Loves: Dog Training, Zelda, Harry Potter, Avatar, Legend of Korra, anything by Brandon Sanderson, Jim Butcher, or C. S. Lewis, art channels on YouTube, and MARVEL!

Favorite Sport: To play... basketball and softball, To watch... definitely football!

Hobbies: Books, memes, dog training, painting, music (used to teach piano, violin, and voice lessons), sports (basketball, softball, and lifting are favorites...), digital art and design, and up-cycling furniture

meet
Justin

**JUSTIN IN
THREE WORDS:**

Persistent, steady,
hilarious

INSPIRED BY:

The incredible
friends I've been
blessed with



Ashley, here! I met Justin at college one day after Bio 100 when he sat down by me and proceeded to ask me about my study skills. Not the way little 5-year-old me pictured meeting my husband, but hey, it worked out! Our time getting to know each other was both amazing and challenging, and I had the opportunity to learn some crucial things about Justin. I think the most important thing I've learned about him: Justin is COMMITTED!

Since we've been married, he has continued to prove that to me in word and action. Justin is a man of daily deeds. He is consistent and dedicated like no one I have ever met! (Boy, do I wish I was more like him in that respect!) All of that paired with his quick sense of humor...we'll just say he sure is a good fit for me!

A little know fact about Justin...hmmm... He has a tender heart (that's not the surprise...), so tender, in fact, that he is the type of person that catches and releases bugs that get into the house. (And if he absolutely has to kill it, he apologizes first. <3)

FUN FACTS about JUSTIN!

Favorite Food: Seafood

Job: Supervisor - Senior Missionary Office Training

Geeky Loves: Zelda, Legend of Korra (and Avatar, of course), anything by Brandon Sanderson

Favorite Sport: Soccer

Hobbies: Hiking, woodworking, home improvement, reading, audiobooks



our home

"HOME is a shelter
from the storms - all
sorts of storms."

- William J. Bennett

We live in a cute little home in Utah. Our home consists of the ground floor and Ashley's brother and his wife live in the basement apartment. We have about a third acre of green yard (that grass is Justin's baby) with a garden, little DIY firepit, a pear tree, lots of shade from our big trees, and a coop full of sassy chickens! This little corner of the world has become our haven, and we're excited to share it.

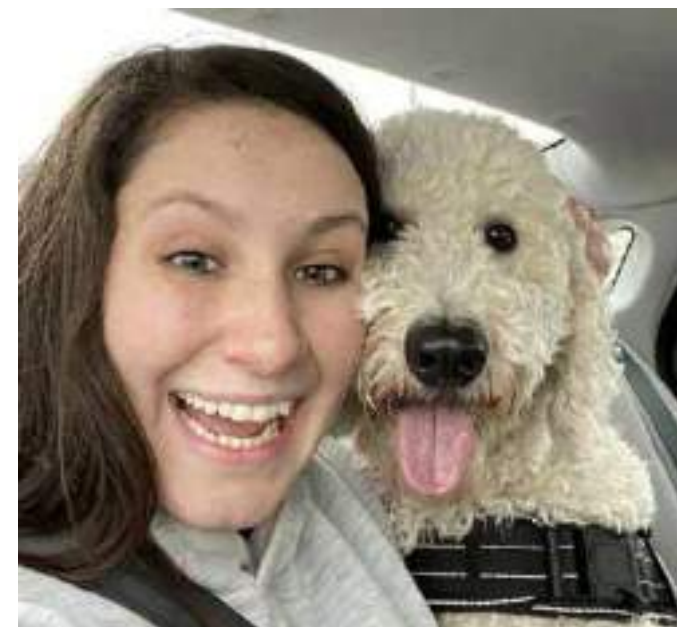


Meet Indigo!

Indigo, or "Indie," is our life-loving, chicken-watching, gluten-sniffing service dog.

Indigo came into our lives almost a year ago, as Ashley's service dog.

She is currently learning to detect gluten to help manage our Celiac Disease (Yup! We both have it!) Little did we know what a difference this happy, curly pup would make in our lives!



meet our families

We're pretty lucky ducks. Our support system exceeds anything we could have ever asked for!! That's for sure! We live within 45 minutes of members from both sides of our family (with even more to love out of state), and life is an awesome, wild ride with them!

We want to share a couple of our favorite things about our family. <3

ADVENTURES

Our family loves adventures! Camping, hiking, kayaking, boating - from the oldest to the youngest, this family keeps us on our toes!



KIDDOS GALORE

Between nieces and nephews and cousins, there are kiddos EVERYWHERE in this family! We both come from decently large families, so there is no shortage of fun, laughter, noise, and trouble around these parts!

TOGETHERNESS

This is honestly my very favorite part. The time we get to spend together is a treasured time. Holidays, Sunday dinners, camping, or even group texts. This big, warm family is a place where every individual is important and loved.



SUPPORT

Something this family does well is jumping to help, praying for, and supporting each other when in need. We know our family is one we can rely on for a quick chat or help in the hardest moments. That is a blessing we don't take for granted.



GRANDPARENTS

From Halloween parties to bedtime stories, these grandparents love every second they can get with the little ones. We have grandparents, great-grandparents, and even a sweet great-GREAT-grandma to love and adore the babies of the family.



a little

Q&A

A fun way to get a snapshot of who we are.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE EACH OTHER?

A about J: Justin....he is probably the most patient person I know. Not only that, he is THOUGHTFUL! He's the kind of friend you finish talking to and leave feeling like you paid for a world-class therapy session! He is steady, persistent, dedicated, hard-working, and consistent. He's always there to listen and empathize when someone needs him. He is the steady, calming force in our home.

J about A: Ashley is fun, strong, creative, and thrives on making meaningful connections with people around her. If you are willing, she will become your best friend in an instant and will be perfectly happy to stay up talking until the wee hours of the morning. I would guess that it is her kindness, sincerity, and honesty that is what draws so many people to her.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO PASS THE TIME?

Probably, audiobooks! We'll listen to books while working around the house, going on a walk, or even cuddle up after dinner and just listen together. (Justin always gets to them first, though, so we're REALLY working on containing spoilers in this house...!!)

AS A CHILD, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

A: I wanted to be a veterinarian-mom-artist! I had it all figured out with a vet's office built off the side of my house, so I could be a stay-at-home mom and care for pets and paint all at the same time!

J: I have faint memories of being asked this question back in elementary school, but whatever I said then apparently didn't stick. But back in jr. high, I remember wanting to become a physical therapist.

WHAT IS SOMETHING ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

A: Doing the splits is on my bucket list....though that's getting more unlikely with every year that passes...! Actually, When I was about 6, I wrote in a journal that I wanted to adopt someday. Little did I know where I would find myself almost 2 decades later. It's kind of a bitter-sweet feeling looking back on that. <3

J: I would love to go backpacking in New Zealand! Oh, and to learn how to play the ocarina "jaw dropping-ly well!"

WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR PET PEEVES?

A: Wet grass stuck to my feet. Gak! Nuff said!

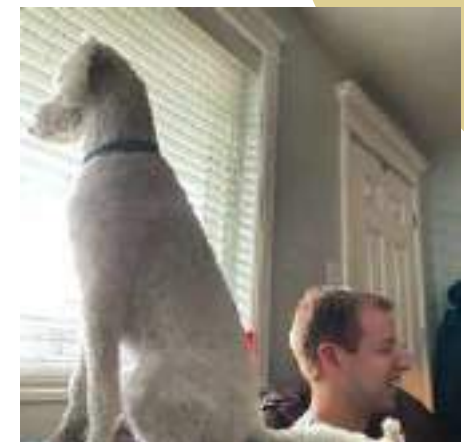
J: Lights on in the room after I've fallen asleep!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FAMILY TRADITION?

A: I have two! On Christmas Eve, after we've opened Christmas Pajamas, we have a "Birthday Party for Jesus." We blow out candles on cupcakes and then give "gifts" to Jesus in the form of goals for the year (think New Years Resolutions).

The other is a birthday tradition that started sometime in my early-teen years. Basically, we all go outside to the most open space available with a three-man slingshot...and dozens of cupcakes! We then proceed to LAUNCH the cupcakes as far as we can out of the slingshot (often eating the valuable frosting off before, of course...))!! It's just ridiculous and so much fun!

J: Family vacation! Summer family vacations with extended family! Growing up, we would go to Newport, CA every summer. While location and structure have changed over the years as we've added nieces and nephews to the mix, summer vacation with our extended family is still probably my favorite tradition.





LOOKING FORWARD

We want to use this snippet to share a sort of vision or "day in the life" of our future children and family.

We start our day like anyone else. Justin is an early riser, Ashley is...not! Currently, we both work from home (though Ashley's dream is to be a full-time mom someday in the future), so it's easy to sneak in little moments as a family during the day. Be it a meal together, puzzles in the living room, playing in the backyard, or a quick TV show (typically a cartoon...'cause that's how we roll around here!), we usually carve out a break in the middle of the day to hang out.

Evenings are made up of dinner together (family dinners are important together time for us), cleaning up, and typically some kind of relaxing or "project-ing" as we say! ;D We like to work and create new things in our spare time, so it's not uncommon to find someone or the whole family with a paintbrush or power tool working on some kind of crazy new idea!

The evenings end with winding down (think books & cuddles) and family scripture study and prayers before bed. Hugs and kisses follow before we finally go to sleep.

Though very simplified, these are the little things that make up our family. We say "I love you" like there's no tomorrow, we work out our differences through understanding and talking (a LOT of talking!), we cry when we need to, and then laugh off the remaining tension. Jokes are always welcome as are hugs and snuggles. In our home, there are times to make a mess and times to clean it up; there are good moments and really sucky ones.

In the end, we are a goofy, loving family just trying to live the most whole life we can as we grow together.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

In short: We are Christians!

In long: We are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who believe in God and Jesus Christ and work every day to strengthen our relationships with Them. <3

One of our core beliefs is that family ties can extend beyond death. This has a big influence on the way we live our daily life. Family is one of, if not our greatest, priority, and we believe that including God in our daily routines can strengthen us and bring us closer as a family.

We are very religiously active in our local church community. We also consider ourselves very spiritually active. We deeply value personal, private spiritual reflection and growth. These things center us and bring us closer to those around us and to God.

We wouldn't be where we are today without the help of our Heavenly Father and Savior. That faith and hope make the hard road worth it. Worth it 100 times over! <3

our thoughts on adoption

We were talking recently as we did a puzzle on the living room floor and began to see a lot of neat parallels between adoption and a puzzle.

- Every piece is a different shape and a different color, but each belongs and is necessary to complete the picture
- Each piece fills a different piece of the whole and none is less important than another (ever finished a puzzle to find ONE PIECE missing???)
- A puzzle is really just a sequence of tiny little successes - a lot like the daily successes that buoy up a family.

Adoption is both hard and beautiful. Adoption involves loss and grief on all sides. We are not ignorant of that. Adoption also involves love, beauty, and the expansion of hearts.

Our hope is that we will have an open adoption (to the extent our birth family is comfortable). We want the child to be intimately connected to their roots, identity, and biological family.

It really does take a village. <3

"When the dust is settled and the crowds are gone, the things that matter are faith, family, and friends."

- Barbara Bush





in our
family...

We work hard, play
hard, laugh hard, pray
hard, love hard, and live
every day ... fully.

<3.



before you go

we want you to know

We have incredible respect for you and the path you are walking right now. While we don't know what it is like to be in your shoes, we want to walk this path by your side. You and yours will be in our thoughts and prayers, and we wish you the very, very, VERY best in the days ahead

Before we close out, we want to leave you our hearts in the form of a few solemn promises we can make. We don't know what all life holds in the future, but these things we feel we can guarantee.

IF YOU CHOOSE US WE PROMISE:

- Your child will be loved unconditionally their whole life through!
- Your child will be taught to love and respect those around them. They will be taught that diversity is beautiful, and our similarities and differences are what make the world go round.
- Your child will be taught about their Savior and Heavenly Father. They will be taught that He is their ultimate safe haven and source of love, guidance, and peace.
- They will always be told and reminded just how much YOU love them!
- You will always be treated with the respect and dignity you deserve.
- We will work **together** to create levels of openness and opportunities for relationships as we both feel comfortable and life circumstances evolve.

You are amazing, and we hope dearly for the chance to get to know each other better. Take care of yourself, and we hope to talk with you soon.

with love and gratitude,

Ashley and Justin

“We look at adoption as a very
sacred exchange. It was not
done lightly on either side.

I would dedicate my life to
this child.”

— **Jamie Lee Curtis**

