



JON *and* RACHEL

Jon & Rachel



Thank you for reading our story



“We promise to commit to loving your child in a way that makes them comfortable to confide in us, learn from us, trust us, and ultimately, grow to become exactly who they were created to be!”



DEAR

Pharma,

OUR LETTER TO YOU...

We recognize that you currently bear the incredible weight of making a very important decision for your child. We know that you don't take this lightly, and we are truly praying for your heart and mind as you make some really big decisions. **We want you to know that if we had the honor of being chosen to parent your child, you will not be hidden from them. Your child will know that their mom was very brave and made her decisions out of deep love for them.** We talk a lot about what our lives will be like when another little one joins us. We wish words could accurately describe to you how much love, affection, and fun we cannot wait to lavish on another child. We absolutely love being parents; it has unlocked a love and joy in our hearts we really didn't know existed. Above all, we can promise to commit to loving your child in a way that makes them comfortable to confide in us, learn from us, trust us, and ultimately, grow to become exactly who they were created to be!



“Adoption has always been on our hearts. We desire to be able to walk alongside a mom who has chosen adoption for her child and welcome them into our home and hearts...”

JON & RACHEL



WHY Adoption

Adoption has always been on our hearts. We desire to be able to walk alongside a mom who has chosen adoption for her child and welcome them into our home and hearts in a way that allows their mom to exhale with deep relief and peace. We are fortunate to have three adopted children in our extended family, and we have seen them flourish within the environment of their homes. We see the miracle that the relationship between an adoptive parent and child is. This type of relationship has been modeled so well for us, and we are so thankful for that as we step

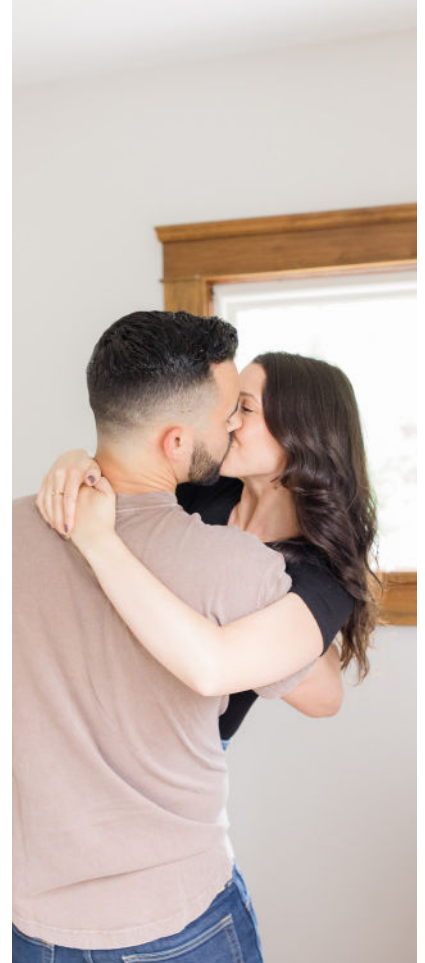
into it ourselves. We conceived our first child, our daughter Brooklyn, without issue. We absolutely loved being parents, so we started trying to conceive a second child when Brooklyn was about seven months old. It has been two years since we started trying, unsuccessfully. Over this last year, we ultimately decided to pursue adoption rather than fertility treatments. This was an easy decision for us as adoption is something we always planned to pursue. **We're excited to grow our family this way, and we feel confident that now is the right time.**

OUR *Love* STORY

WRITTEN BY RACHEL:

Jon and I met in high school. He was a new Sophomore transfer while I was a Freshman. Of course, he was the new hot commodity- a cute, tall, and tan soccer player. I had a high school crush on Jon, but he wasn't interested in me- I was wild and boy-crazy, and he was a sweet mama's boy. It wasn't until he was graduating

college that we reconnected. We became best friends after the first time we got together in April of 2013. We hung out all the time and had an absolute blast together. After about three years of staying friends, we started dating. We had to risk our friendship to see if this was a forever thing, and here we are!





THE PROPOSAL

WRITTEN BY JON:

We were going through a book together where it walked through different ways to love your significant other through thoughtful actions. In the book, cooking for Rachel was coming up. It was the perfect ploy! I thought it would be pretty memorable to cook her some venison burgers with the deer I just recently hunted. She was decently impressed! I proposed to her at dinner and then headed to her parent's house for a surprise engagement party with all of our closest family and friends! We had such a great time celebrating with all of the people we love most.

THIS IS US

We have been married for almost six years! What makes our marriage strong is that we have the same core values and beliefs. What we love about our marriage is, to this day, we still have so much fun together, laughing and joking around. It helps us not take life too seriously, which I think is very important. We both love to do the same things with our time, which is mainly spending it with those we love. We are both extroverts and being around people gives us energy. When it comes to conflict or disagreements, we certainly aren't immune to it. We aren't perfect, but our deep love and commitment to each other and our family motivates us to prioritize our relationship when these moments arise. One way we do that is by regularly making time for each other. It helps us remain unified, and in step with each other, no matter how busy life gets!





MEET John

Loyal, fun, intentional, caring,
trustworthy, honest, hardworking

“I pray my children would be able to look back on their time in our household and have very positive memories. If I can build a family culture where we love each other and enjoy our time together, that would be the ultimate wish fulfilled.”

MY CAREER:

I work in medical device sales.

Basically, I meet with surgeons, show them the devices that we have, and help them troubleshoot those products. I love my job, and it is so much fun. The best part about my job is my schedule. I start my days very early and also end my days very early. I am usually home around 2 pm, sometimes earlier, which I believe makes it an ideal job for a father with children.



MY CHILDHOOD:

I think the biggest takeaway from how my parents raised me, and how I'd like to parent my kids, is they age-appropriately pushed me. A couple of examples of that I can remember is when I turned 18, they made me do my taxes rather than them doing them for me. I also had to sign up for my own credit card, and when I graduated college, I had to buy my own car. They pushed me to be able to handle myself in the real world. I was well-prepared for adulthood, marriage, and fatherhood because of experiences like those. I hope to do the same with my children.



IN RACHEL'S WORDS...

Jon is a man's man. He loves sports and being outside, he's athletic, and he loves learning how to work with his hands. He is incredibly hard-working; he will do the things that others won't in order to bring success. Jon's heart is so tender. He is humble and prioritizes his relationships over the need to be right. Jon is super affectionate; it is another way he is proactive in his love for me. He says what is on his heart. He is strong, he has integrity, he's honest, he's an absolute goofball, and he has a strong faith in God.

As a father, Jon goes above and beyond; he's a kid at heart! He also fights for time with his daughter. After a tough workday, instead of heading for the couch to rest, he takes our daughter, Brooklyn, on a bike ride to her favorite playground or pushes her on the swing outside. I love that his affectionate heart has spilled over to his role as a dad- our daughter knows her daddy loves her. Something that sets Jon apart as a father is his proactive involvement in taking care of our daughter. I can't tell you how many times other moms have said, "you don't know how lucky you are to have Jon! He is so proactive at helping with Brooklyn!" He's honestly a natural dad.



MEET Rachel

authentic, wise, bold, welcoming,
encouraging, a leader

“My biggest prayer for my children is that they grow up to be confident, full of love, and a leader in their generation. I want to be a person they never doubt is in their corner and would do anything for them. I pray they grow to feel safe in our bond.”

MY CAREER:

I am a registered nurse. After Brooklyn was born, I decided to transition from a fast-paced full-time nursing job to a part-time position that is only 10 hours/week. When I'm at work, Brooklyn is cared for by one of her grandmothers. **I plan to work until a new baby arrives, and then I will be home full time!** Being a stay-at-home mom has always been a priority and a dream for me.



SOMETHING I'M PROUD OF:

My greatest accomplishment is deciding that I was going to walk out of the darkness in my life and live in the light. I grew up angry, rebellious, mean, and depressed. Some of it was a result of how I was hurt as a child, but also the result of a lot of the decisions I made. I chose unhealthy relationships, and I made destructive life choices. But God opened my eyes to the truth that He had better for me. He wanted to forgive me and heal me. I finally surrendered and trusted that it would be worth it to follow Him. I finally said yes to what I was created for and not just running away from it because it sounded hard to do. The fact that I have a healthy marriage and family is an accomplishment, and I really can't tell you how grateful and proud I am of that.



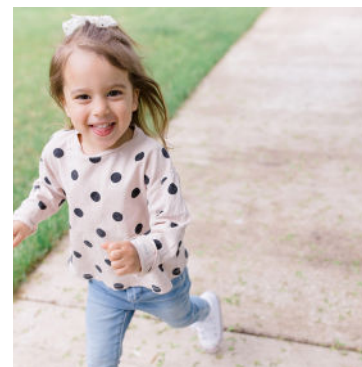
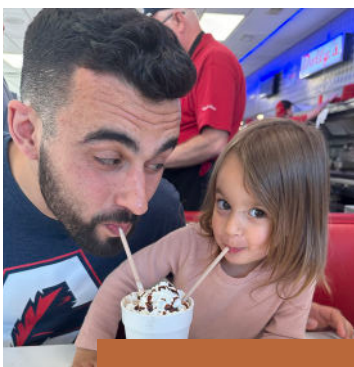
IN JON'S WORDS...

My wife is incredible, and I love her so much. What first attracted me to Rachel was her strength and boldness. She was never afraid to say how she felt about something, and I respected her so much for that. Rachel is a very strong wife and mother. She is also a fiercely loyal and caring friend. She is constantly following up with her friends and family, seeing how they are doing, remembering important moments in their lives, and celebrating big accomplishments. Rachel cares so much for Brooklyn and works hard to be the best mother she can be. She is always working with Brooklyn to help her grow in every way. Rachel takes every opportunity to teach her educational milestones, and help her learn to be courageous and kind. She created a "heart check" chart on Brooklyn's bedroom wall to work with Brooklyn to make sure she understands her heart and emotions (happy, calm, afraid, mad, sad). What a great idea to help our daughter understand her emotions better! It is so awesome to witness firsthand such a caring mother. Rachel is most looking forward to pouring so much love and affection into our child by adoption. I know she cannot wait to hold and kiss and hug our adopted little one, to talk to them, and just to enjoy the stages of our adopted child's growth, the same way she does with Brooklyn.



MEET BROOKLYN

Brooklyn is two and a half! She is an absolute joy. She is a girly girl in every way. She loves to have her nails painted, wear dresses and necklaces, go shopping with mommy, and, most of all, take care of her dolls/babies. She is always carrying a toy baby around. She is very sweet and physically affectionate; she is a nurturer like Rachel. Brooklyn is a defender of people, she cares about what is right, and we swear even at two and a half, she speaks up if someone is not being treated right. She loves to ride her bike and swing. **She is very excited to have a little sibling. Every time we meet a loved one's newborn, she is incredibly loving and tender to them. She is so ready to be a big sister!**





PARENTING PHILOSOPHY

We believe in parenting the child's heart. We're not just here for behavior modification, and we don't believe that it's transformative or lasting to discipline a child into do's and don'ts without understanding why we have that expectation. We do believe that our words and actions stem from what is going on in our hearts, so we want to call that out and help our child process it. Correction should happen out of love. We take our role seriously to be really intentional with them in helping them figure out why they think, speak, and act the way they do, and help them shape that in a healthy way according to what God has designed for us.

OUR FAMILY *Mission*

"We exist to honor and love God above all else. We take care of each other, protect each other, and love each other in this family. We seek to bear the light of the Gospel to the world around us through our words and actions. We do all of this for our good, and for the glory of God."



We believe that believing, trusting, and following God and His word is the best way to flourish in this life.

1.





2.

We believe that having a loving, safe, and protective home helps children thrive in this world and become healthy adults.



3.

We want to be people in this world who don't just consume from it and merely exist; we want to be leaders and agents of goodness and change in our culture.



4.

It's a reminder of our motivation for the previous three things: for our good and to honor and love God well, who loved us first!



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE

home

Our Home

Our home is a 100+ year-old historic home. It has 4 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms. We currently use one of the small bedrooms on the first floor as a playroom! Our main floor has an open-concept kitchen and dining room, which has been wonderful for our family! We have tall ceilings that we love and an unfinished basement that we hope to finish in the next few years. We have a small lot, but our backyard is perfectly secluded by trees and actually butts up to an empty lot behind it so it's a good amount of privacy. We, as a family, love to be home together. Whether it is watching a movie on our couch, playing in Brooklyn's playroom, going for a walk to the coffee shop on our street, or swinging Brooklyn on her swing in our front yard, we can truly agree with the saying "there's no place like home."

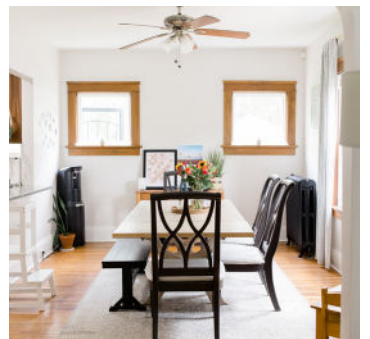
Our Community

We couldn't be more thankful for our neighbors! They have gone above and beyond by making us feel very welcome. We're on a street where cookouts and porch hangouts happen frequently. We have multiple parks in the area, which we go to frequently with our daughter. Our city and surrounding suburbs have one of the most beautiful National Parks woven throughout it. We also live ten minutes from the lake, the beaches, and beautiful parks that line it! Our downtown area is fifteen minutes from our home and has tons of restaurants, children's museums, science centers, zoos, and sports arenas. There really is no lack of activities to do.

Our Dog, Cash

Cash is our dude! We absolutely love him. He is a Pitbull mix that we rescued from the county animal shelter. When Cash was a year old, we invested in some really intense training for him. He is now an incredibly obedient and controlled dog, which makes us very comfortable having him around our children and other children. Cash might appear tough on the outside, but he's honestly a big old softy. He's a good boy and a great addition to our family.

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OUR AMAZING
Family

JON'S SIDE

My parents are Alan and Beth. My dad was born and raised in Cairo, Egypt, and came to the States when he was in his twenties. I have a great relationship with my family. My parents live locally and are All-Star grandparents. They are eager to spend time with Brooklyn, and they have watched her for us many times! Though siblings live a couple of hours away, we make efforts to see each other. When we're all together, it is a blast. Brooklyn loves her cousins! On both my mom's and dad's sides, we have a lot of aunts, uncles, and cousins. Holidays are usually a full house, and we really look forward to the time we get with everyone- we even vacation together! My family is so excited to bring a new little one into the family. They have been incredibly supportive!



RACHEL'S SIDE

I come from a big, loud, crazy Irish family on my dad's side that is incredibly tight-knit. I have one brother, Jimmy, and he is married to Marisa. Growing up, my immediate family was not close at all, and did not enjoy spending time together. I'm proud to say I have a really great relationship with my family now, and we spend a lot of time together. We see each other almost weekly! My parents watch our daughter very often, and she absolutely loves spending time with her "Nana and Papa." Having a big extended family on my dad's side is a blast, and a lot of my cousins are like siblings to me! We do almost every holiday together and have the best time joking around. They are all thrilled about the adoption. On my dad's side, we have three adopted children, who are absolutely thriving. Adoption is very highly valued in my family.

OUR HOPES & DREAMS



Our goal long term is to have a family culture full of love and respect for each other.

We want our home to be a place where everyone in the family feels safe and loved, and a house that is welcoming to all visitors. We want to be known as a family that loves Jesus. **We hope and pray that our family continues to grow into a large one with a lot of siblings- either biologically or through continued adoption!**

We will likely stay in the current city we live in now long term because we have such a solid community of friends and family here, and those are lifelong relationships we will continue to invest in.

We believe that God has created each and every one of us with a purpose, with gifts, and with passions. We believe that pursuing those three things and using them to serve others will bring ultimate joy and fullness of life. This is the type of mindset we desire to develop in our children. **We will seek to develop children who have integrity, honest and compassionate hearts.** Under our faith, we will seek to develop hearts in our children that are selfless and love others in a way that helps them become who they were created to be!

“Our goal long term is to have a family culture full of love and respect for each other.”



Plans for Education

We hope to send our children to private, Christian education.

Both of us were given a private school education as well, and we have seen the way it shaped us and developed our character and success as adults. Additionally, we recognize that during their school years, kids spend more time in school than at home! For this reason, **we feel strongly about investing in them attending a school where the environment is healthy, free of violence, and teachers are positive role models** whose care for students goes beyond classwork! We believe

college is great for some, but do not plan on forcing college on our children. Rachel's father and brother did not get a college degree and worked in the trades, and are both highly successful and financially thriving. Jon's father did not get a college degree and runs his own business, and has also been successful. However, both of us have gotten college degrees and are very thankful for the opportunities that have provided us. We plan on having those discussions with each child and **guiding them in their own decision based on their interests and passions.**



"If chosen, we can promise that your child will grow up in a nurturing and safe environment; where they are graciously told the truth and reminded that they are worthy of love."

before you go



OUR FINAL THOUGHTS

We hope that this book has given you a clear picture of who we are as individuals, as a couple, and as parents. **If you gather nothing else from this profile book, please remember this: we don't love people because of what they do to earn it. We love people because their life is inherently valuable. We believe that for both you and your child.** If chosen, we can promise that your child will grow up in a nurturing and safe environment; where they are graciously told the truth and reminded that they are worthy of love. We also promise that we would honor you in our home. You'll be on our minds and in our hearts for the rest of our lives. We love you and desire the best for you, not just your child.

As you read through multiple profile books, our prayer is that you feel an overwhelming sense of peace as you select an adoptive family, even if it's not us! We want you to feel confident as you proceed in placing your child, knowing they will go to a family and home that builds them up with love, and reassures them that their birth parents did their very best for them.

JON & RACHEL

