

Joelle *And* JAMES





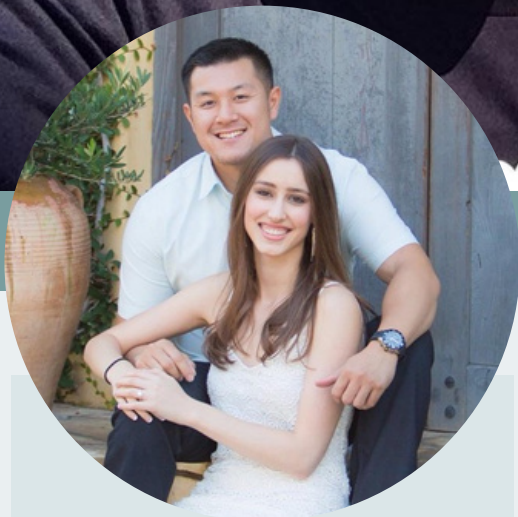
## WE ARE JAMES + JOELLE

We are James and Joelle, two mild-mannered and fun-loving people, hoping to adopt. We are connected through our love of movies, eating, and travel adventures. We enjoy being active, such as going to the gym, hiking, and bikeriding to the beach! Luckily for us, we live in Orange County, California, and are close to many trails and beaches. We also like getting together often with family and friends to have a good time filled with joy and laughter.

We bought our first home in 2018 and love that it is in a safe and quiet community alongside friendly neighbors. Our house is conveniently located to both of our jobs with a 10-15 minute commute to work. We are also within walking distance to nearby schools, parks, restaurants, and a Target! We occasionally enjoy going to amusement parks such as Disneyland, Universal Studios, and Knott's Berry Farm - and are excited to take our child(ren) there one day!

Moreover, faith, hope, and love are values that we live by and will be our foundation as we grow our family. We believe in God and having a relationship with Him. Spending time to read Bible verses, singing worship songs, and praying together are important and will be at the center of our loving home.

All in all, we make a great team and feel incredibly fortunate with the opportunity to be considered as adoptive parents. We are optimistic and look forward to witnessing how our adoption journey unfolds. More importantly, we realize this would be impossible without you, so please know how significant you are to us - a missing piece to our puzzle. We hope that our story will connect with you and provide a small glimpse into our life. We graciously thank you for taking the time to get to know us. God bless!



## OUR LOVE STORY

Their love story began in 2009, amidst the American Studies textbooks of a college classroom. James, a seasoned senior, had his eye on Joelle, a bright-eyed sophomore, all semester long. Finally, during the final week before exams, he gathered the courage to add her on Facebook. What started as online messages blossomed into late-night conversations and shared interests. Soon, campus coffee dates turned into movie nights, and a beautiful connection began to take root.

*We met...*

in 2009 in our American Studies class at college.

After five years of laughter, adventures, and shared dreams, James whisked Joelle away for a romantic gondola ride, where he popped the question under the twinkling night sky. On July 11th, 2015, they said "I do," and their love story officially took a new chapter. To celebrate each anniversary, they embark on a quirky tradition: a photo at a different 7-Eleven, slurpees in hand, a testament to their playful and fun-loving nature.

**OUR FAVORITE THING TO DO TOGETHER**  
WATCH MOVIES AND GO ON FOOD ADVENTURES.

Beyond their unique anniversary ritual, their shared passions bind them even closer. They're self-proclaimed movie buffs, their love for the big screen ignited in the days of high school. Their adventurous taste buds lead them on culinary explorations, transforming every vacation into a delicious odyssey. They believe in the joy of variety, and their adventures often include scenic hikes, adding a touch of activity to their escapades.

Together, they complement each other perfectly, forming a team that's stronger than the sum of its parts. Their love story, born in the heart of academia, is a testament to the enduring power of connection, shared passions, and a dash of playful tradition.



OUR ANNIVERSARY IS IN

*July*



## *about* J O E L L E

My story begins in New York, but Southern California became my haven at nine. Growing up, I was the middle child in a vibrant house filled with four siblings. Laughter and energy were constant companions. However, at 13, life presented its biggest challenge - a cancer diagnosis. Fortunately, I overcame it, and for twenty years, I've cherished the gift of life with profound gratitude.

Following my passion, I obtained a degree in Business Administration and thrived as a payroll professional with a flexible work-from-home schedule. Beyond work, spiritual fulfillment comes from my Bible study group, fostering a sense of community and deepening my faith.

Leisure time finds me unwinding with a diverse mix of entertainment - from lighthearted shows like "The Bachelor" and "Shark Tank" to captivating movies like "The Notebook" and "Beauty and the Beast." I cherish spending quality time with friends, exploring new destinations with my husband, and indulging in delicious adventures. But a cherished dream remains close to my heart - the dream of motherhood. Since childhood, nurturing has brought me joy, and I eagerly await embracing the title of "Mom" someday.

## F U N F A C T S

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Coffee

Favorite Cartoon Character: Belle from Beauty and the Beast

Favorite Sports Team: Los Angeles Lakers

Favorite Hobby: Watching Movies

Favorite Musical Artist: Taylor Swift and Jeremy Camp



# How James DESCRIBES JOELLE

I love Joelle's innocent, generous and loving nature. She has a sweet smile and a kind soul. It is evident in the way she treats people with respect. Her family, friends, and coworkers all speak highly of her. She absolutely adores and loves her nieces and nephew. I love seeing her eyes light up and her smile brighten whenever she is around them. Known as "Aunt Jojo", she consistently remembers their birthdays, FaceTimes them, and does not hesitate to spoil them.

Moreover, I love that Joelle embraces her sense of humor and enjoys a good laugh! Her playfulness and laughter has surely rubbed off on me. Other qualities I love about Joelle are that she is organized, responsible, and dependable. She handles our bill payments as well as books our travel accommodations and activities. She is the ultimate team player and her willingness to selflessly help others is a trait I deeply admire. She is my rock and I am grateful to call her my wife.





## *about* J A M E S

Growing up in Los Angeles with hard-working immigrant parents instilled in me the values of humility, dedication, and the importance of strong bonds. Although having a half-brother, I often turned to the solace and joy of friendships. At 9, my journey began with after-school sports like flag football, basketball, and track and field. These experiences not only sparked a lifelong love for sports but also taught me valuable lessons in discipline, work ethic, and the power of teamwork.

These formative experiences ultimately led me to pursue a career in education. Now, with over 12 years under my belt, I proudly stand as a middle school science teacher. My philosophy revolves around fostering connections with students and injecting fun into the learning process.

But outside the classroom, my passion for basketball continues to burn bright. A die-hard Lakers fan, I still catch NBA games and enjoy playing with friends. Maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle is a priority, so regular gym visits are part of my routine.

On the creative side, video editing allows me to express myself. I find immense satisfaction in piecing together photos, videos, and music for both personal and school projects. It's a way to tap into my creative spirit and create lasting memories. And one day, I hope to be filling those memories with my wife and children by my side.

## F U N F A C T S

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Pistachio

Favorite Cartoon Character: Bugs Bunny

Favorite Sports Team: Los Angeles Lakers

Favorite Hobby: Playing Basketball, Photography and Video Editing

Favorite Musical Artist: Boyz II Men and Maroon 5



# How Joelle DESCRIBES JAMES

I love that James has a cool, calm and collective demeanor about him. When we first met, I was attracted to his kind and easy-going personality and how good of a listener he is. 'Till this day, whenever I want to talk about my day, he kindly lends an ear and just listens. It is his positive mindset and optimism that helps me get through difficult times.

I also love James' patience and compassion. Being the wife of a teacher, I see first-hand his passion for teaching and how much he cares about his students. He is an awesome teacher and has made an impact on many of his students' lives. He is always willing to go the extra mile to help or motivate his students to achieve their goals. In addition, his dad jokes reaffirm the kind of funny and loving father he will be to our future child(ren). I cannot wait until that day comes!





# adventures

WE LOVE TO TRAVEL

We love to travel, and we are fortunate to have careers that allow us to do so. Over the past ten years, we have visited New York, Hawaii (Maui, Oahu, Kauai), Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. We have explored beautiful scenery, and experienced new foods and activities (parasailing, ziplining, ATV off-roading, snorkeling). More importantly, traveling has allowed us to spend quality time together and has made us want to grow our family. We are so excited to include our child(ren) in our adventures so we can give them the same opportunities.

## F U N F A C T S

our favorite place ever: Kauai, Hawaii

weird food you have tried: grilled octopus in Hawaii, fried alligator in Texas

greatest experience: An intimate catamaran boat ride along the Napali Coast in Kauai, Hawaii. This experience included seeing pods of spinner dolphins, incredible sea caves, stunning backdrops filmed in movies, and snorkeling with lots of fish and reefs.







ABOUT OUR

# *Family & friends*

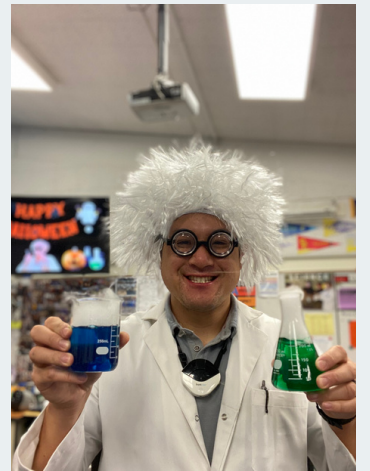
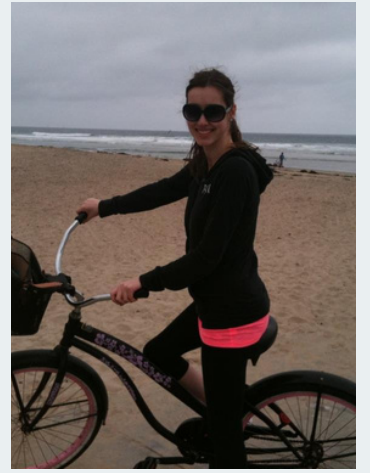
We both come from large, supportive families. Joelle's mother has four siblings, and James' mother has eight, giving us a wealth of aunts, uncles, and cousins. We believe it takes a village to raise a child, and we are fortunate to have a loving village ready to welcome our adopted child(ren) with open arms. Surrounded by this amazing network of family and friends, we're excited to create a nurturing and joyful environment filled with shared experiences like birthday parties, holidays, reunions, vacations, and game nights.



## OUR *traditions*

Our faith holds a central place in our lives, providing strength and guiding us with positivity. We attend a local Christian church on weekends, where we worship, participate in communion, and deepen our relationship with God.

Celebrating holidays with family is a cherished tradition. Christmas and Easter find us attending church services together, followed by shared meals and lively gatherings at Joelle's parents' house. These occasions are filled with the joy of gift-giving, playful games, heartwarming movies, and the company of loved ones.





*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.*

ROMANS 12:12

## *To Birthmom,* A LETTER

Words truly cannot express how thankful we are of birthmothers like you. Our personal experiences of struggling to conceive a biological child, multiple failed rounds of fertility treatments (IVF), and longing to start a family have led us to adoption. We believe this is our calling and are wholeheartedly putting our best foot forward. We understand the magnitude of your decision and know that it has not been easy. Please know that both you and your child are a blessing! We appreciate your strength and courage in choosing adoption for your precious baby, and will be here to support you along the way. We promise to love, support, and provide a safe space for your child to explore interests and develop skills. We will do all that we can to ensure your child has opportunities to pursue their goals and dreams. We are praying and looking forward to the day when we become parents and get to hold your gift and bundle of joy.

*With Love,  
James and Joelle*