



Spring 2023

Foster to Adopt: **Life Happens When You're Busy Making Plans**

Jordan and Brett are a young couple who met at church and quickly started having the big conversations about life. Would their futures be together? Where would they live? Did they both want to be parents?

Jordan's family has a history with foster care and adoption, so she was relieved when Brett was open to it.

"We always thought we'd have kids first, then foster and adopt," says Jordan. "We tried for five years and it didn't work out, so we asked ourselves, 'What are you waiting for?'"

"We love children and knew God had called us to be parents. We just didn't know what that would look like," said Brett.

Their lives changed instantly in early 2022 when they got a call that two little sisters needed to be placed in a foster home... and they had three hours to get ready!

The couple had prepared through Good Shepherd's foster care licensing program to foster older children and were surprised to learn they would welcome an infant and a toddler. Good Shepherd is currently serving 130 children in foster care.

"Our church banded together to help us create this family," says Jordan. Brett took deliveries of donated cribs, toys, and necessities from their congregation while Jordan got car seats installed and was quickly on the road to meet the girls.



Creating their new family was an adventure from the first moments. They received a binder telling them about allergies and an upcoming medical procedure. They learned about traumas and how to manage them.

"That first night, our big girl walked in the house, looked up at me and said, 'Daddy?' And I said, 'Sure, you can call me that,'" says Brett. It was evening time and the girls were tired, so he sang her a song and helped her get ready for bed. It's a routine that has happened every night since.

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"We were afraid of getting too attached in the beginning," says Jordan. "But there are so many kids and families who need extra support. We decided that as adults, we need to be willing to have our own hearts broken so a child's heart can be filled with love. We became a part of a team that was going to work to give these girls a successful life, and we would always be a part of that story."

Over the next weeks and months, they went through the exhaustion of parenting small children with unregulated sleep schedules, the lessons of helping a child feel safe and secure, and all the nuances of foster care. They are now working toward adoption.

"Kim from Good Shepherd has been a huge help. I can ask her anything, and I do...all the time!" says Jordan. "She walks me through the steps, explains the legal process, and makes me feel like I can do this. It is such a sense of relief and encouragement to have her as a close confidant who we can trust."

Jordan and Brett attend ongoing classes with Good Shepherd and enjoy the sense of community they have with other families who are walking through similar experiences. It helps them manage the complex emotions of the process and gives comfort when they see that every case is special because every family is unique.

Brett has these words of advice for the dads: "Embrace the emotional side of what these children need, especially for little girls. There will be times when you want to just be strong, but you get to learn a lot about yourself and grow when you let yourself feel it."

Jordan says she would tell new parents to be easy on themselves when things don't go perfectly.

"Expect to fail at times, but don't beat yourself up. You may get exhausted and react in a way you wish you didn't, but that's an opportunity to show your kids you're human. Apologize and move forward together. Learning how your kids receive love is part of the growth process for the whole family."

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