

Matt, Meg, and Jessica welcomed three brothers in foster care into their home



# Fostering Love

**This special Katy foster family opened their hearts and their home, and learned the healing power of unconditional love**

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Friends and family thought they were crazy when Meg and Matt Lewis revealed their desire to become foster parents, a decision that would double the size of their family, but their faith gave them the courage to embrace the chance. Because of this, not only has their family grown, but so have their hearts.

## **Just Your Average Family**

Meg and Matt Lewis met in high school at a youth group function in Midland, TX. "I fell in love with him the moment I saw him, but it took him a few more years to wise up," jokes Meg. She went to Texas A&M where she earned degrees in biology and civil engineering, and Matt joined the Air Force. Fate brought them back together years later, and they married in 2005.

When Matt's daughter from a previous marriage, Jessica, came to live with them, the family created a list of household rules to help with the transition. They agreed to love first, be honest, forgive, respect, and keep their promises. "Through working with Jessica, we realized how much we could help other children," says Matt, who became a stay-at-



home dad after being diagnosed with fibromyalgia. "That's what led us down the path of what we could do to make a difference in society through foster care."

Still, the decision to become foster parents was not an easy one. "We were trying to have a baby, but God really put it in our hearts to become foster parents," says Meg. The two agreed to foster two children, and when the family got the call from the agency that three boys from a failed adoption placement were available for them, their initial answer was no.

"We didn't have a big enough car," says Meg. "We didn't have a big enough kitchen table. We didn't have room." The couple decided Matt would make the ultimate decision since he would be the one staying home to care for the kids.

"I was full on ready to say no, but I could not say the word, so I said yes," says Matt. He wanted to be a positive male role model for the boys. "This was a huge test in whether or not I had the endurance to survive four full-time children. I believe that sometimes God will grab your tongue whether you like it or not. God was not going to let this opportunity pass us by."

### Then There Were Six

The Lewis' welcomed three brothers: Brian, age 4, Brandon, age 6, and Kady, age 7, into their home. "One of the hardest things is that every single day you have to wake up and make the decision to love these children," says Meg who admits the family faced challenges at first. "There would be tantrums up the wazoo and you couldn't see the light. We had to continually enforce, I don't love your behavior, but I love you. Unconditionally love you."

"It was insane," says Jessica, a freshman in high school, who became a big sister overnight. "I felt very overwhelmed when three kids walked in our door, and thought, 'What have we gotten ourselves into?' But watching them heal and grow, and knowing I'll be able to see what they grow up to be, is pretty dang cool."

"The reality is that these children are hurt and broken, just like all of us are," says Matt. "You have to love them through it, expect nothing from them, and help them heal. When they heal, that's where the rewards are for them and for you."

Although the Lewis' original plan was to foster the boys, one day they heard a message at church about taking care of children that inspired them to do even more. Matt turned to Meg and told her they were going to adopt the boys. "It was very clear and very timely," says Matt. "We did the math crunching and decided we could make it work."

### One Big Happy Family

The Lewis' attribute the success of the adoption to their faith and their church. "It's like God put all the right people

in our life," says Matt. "A lot of friends we had prior to getting involved with our church and foster care were unsupportive."

"It is one of the hardest, most rewarding things you will ever do," says Meg, who reveals that the family plans to foster more children in the future. "If you start out on this path, whether the kids end up being yours forever, or go back to their family's home, make a decision from the start to love them unconditionally, and you will absolutely change their lives - and yours. I have never been so fulfilled in my whole life."

Although adoption may not be for everybody, the Lewis' say there are other ways to become involved in the life of a child. People can offer support to those who are fostering a child by doing things any parent would appreciate, such as providing meals or lawn care, or getting a special license to babysit.

"Courageous faith is something I absolutely believe in," says Matt. "Go out to the edge of your comfort zone and take one more step. See where that goes."

Today the boys no longer live in fear of social worker visits. They love going on walks with their family, eating dinner together, and story time before bed. They know what makes their family special. "They adopted us," says Brian. "We're honest with each other," says Kady. "We love each other," adds Brandon. Most importantly, they know they have a home. At the end of the day biological, or adopted, that is what makes a family. **KM**

### Local Adoption Agencies

Arrow Child and Family Ministries - [arrow.org](http://arrow.org)  
Depelchin Children's Center - [depelchin.org](http://depelchin.org)  
Safe Haven - [safehavencommunityservices.org](http://safehavencommunityservices.org)

