

Wednesday - April 5

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7 (NLT)

I see God in the love of family.

In November 2022, my husband and I welcomed our first child, Brody, into the world. I knew how special and precious this child would be and knew God was with us as he came into our lives. But it was after he was born that I truly saw God's presence with us as we begin to introduce him to all his extended family.

The first instance was Christmas Day when he met his three cousins in Cincinnati. Kaiden and Kaiser (3) immediately came in stood around their grandma who was holding Brody and they began talking to him and calling him by name. The youngest, Cohen was just 11 months old and the look of amazement on his face when he saw Brody was God's gift to us. He was absolutely smitten and just amazed at this little baby who was smaller than him.

The next instance was when his cousins from Texas came to visit. Abe (5) and Piper (2.5) were both very excited and were constantly asking to help hold Brody and feed him. Even in times of slight jealousy from Piper, she still facetimes and asks to see "Baby Brody" and come help feed him.

Finally, where I truly saw God was in the pure acceptance and love shown to Brody from my step-father's family. Even though we have been joined together for over 15 years, there is always worry that two families will never fully accept each other as one. However, when we joined together for our Blackburn Family Christmas, I was blessed by how excited everyone was to meet Brody. Most surprising was when Drew asked our nephew Justin (18) if he wanted to hold Brody and he promptly answered "sure" and held out his arms. From then on Brody was passed around between my step-sister, Sarah, and her two children, Justin and Kylie (16), each taking their turn holding, talking and loving on Brody.

According to Scripture, children are a blessing, God's gift and reward. In 1 John it is made very clear, all begins with God's love. God is the source of love. For Him sending His one and only son to live and to die for us was the ultimate sacrifice of true love. This life-giving love is too much to keep all to ourselves so God commands us to love one another as God has loved us. The next time you are with family, whether they are blood relation or not, look for God because where there is love, there is God.

Alyssa

Prayer: We thank you Lord for bringing others into our lives who we call family. Whether they are related to us by blood or not they are each gifts from You. We show our love for You by loving them. Bless us as we continue to show our love each and every day. Amen.