



I grew up near the cornfields of Thor, Iowa, grand population of 180. With three brothers, I always dreamed of one day having a sister! As a teenager, I came to know Jesus Christ through the ministry of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Grace Evangelical Free Church (Eagle Grove, Iowa) became my home church and where I grew to love the Word.

After high school, I spent a couple years studying English at Central College (Pella, Iowa). Central gave me great opportunities to be involved in campus ministries. It also led me to work at a summer camp with kids who have a parent/step-parent in prison. As a counselor for elementary, middle, and high school students, I loved sharing the hope of the gospel. It was during those summers that God formed a desire and conviction in my heart to disciple the next generation.

While at Central, God directed my steps to transfer to Moody Bible Institute (Chicago) to pursue a B.A in Children's Ministry. In Chicago, I had the joy of serving in the children's ministry at my church for five years. I also worked as a full-time nanny, which I felt like gave me a small glimpse into parenting! God has been faithfully preparing me for my role at Pine Ridge.

Coming back to a small town has its challenges, but I'm so grateful God led me here. I'm excited to partner with parents and equip others to invest in the next generation. My prayer is that our kids will increasingly grow in their knowledge and love of Christ and be making disciples at school, in the community... wherever they go! One favorite passage that encourages me in ministry is 2 Cor. 3:4-5, *"Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but **our sufficiency is from God.**"*

Besides kids, I'm a big fan of reading, writing, running, coffee, and Skype dates with friends. Also, many years later, two sister-in-laws made my childhood dream come true. Perhaps of most importance - if you ever want to get ice-cream, I will never turn you down, summer or winter time.