



THE
PORTRAIT
EXPERIENCE

A Guide for Your Better Half Session



W E L C O M E

Hey there, friend! We're so glad you're here. Whether you're celebrating a growing family, a new season of love, or simply wanting to document life as it is right now, this time is worth remembering. Life moves fast, and these moments—big and small—deserve to be beautifully preserved.

As your photographers at Better Half Media, our goal is to make this entire experience feel easy, relaxed, and genuinely fun. We believe photography is so much more than pretty pictures—it's about connection. It's about the laughter between poses, the quiet in-between glances, the way your story feels right now.

You deserve not only stunning, timeless images but also an experience that leaves you smiling long after the session ends. That's why we created this guide—to walk you through everything you need to know for a stress-free, joy-filled portrait session.

Now that you're officially part of the Better Half Media family, let's dive in! We can't wait to capture your story, your people, and the beauty of this season in your life. From our family to yours—welcome! We're honored to be your photographers.

-Paige & Ky

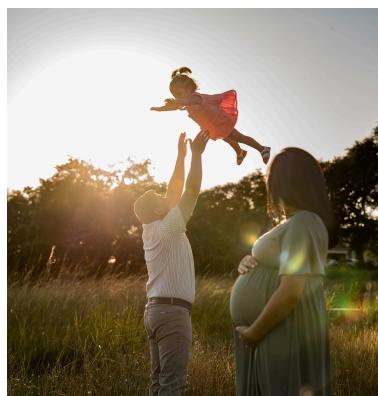


GET TO KNOW PAIGE & KY

You may have already picked up on this... but we're absolutely head over heels for what we do! Capturing the stories of couples, families, and growing little ones is a true privilege, and it fills our hearts with so much joy. Since we'll be spending time together during your session, we want to make sure you get to know the real us and understand why we're so passionate about documenting your story. Keep reading to discover the moments that are especially close to our hearts, the connections we love to capture, and the memories we can't wait to preserve for you.

LIFESTYLE FAVORITES

You may not realize this, but every photographer has favorite parts of each session! Our favorite moments stem from our own experiences as a couple, as well as from the many families we've had the honor of capturing. We look forward to these specific parts of the day every time we're shooting!



Couples

The anticipation, the raw emotion, the pure joy—couples sessions are a treasure trove of unforgettable moments. Watching two people fall into their natural rhythm together is an absolute privilege. It's a private, intimate time filled with laughter, connection, and warmth, and we cherish the opportunity to capture those genuine emotions as they unfold.

Maternity

Portrait time during your maternity session is where the magic truly happens! It's when we create stunning, artistic images that celebrate the beauty of motherhood and the love that fills your growing family. This is your chance to slow down, breathe, and soak in this season together. We'll guide you through prompts that bring out natural emotion and connection—whether it's just mom, the whole family, or even your furry friend.

Family

The energy during family sessions is absolutely contagious! It's a whirlwind of laughter, play, and tender moments shared between the people who matter most. This is when the everyday chaos fades, and genuine joy takes over. We love capturing the spontaneous giggles, the tight hugs, and the warmth that radiates from every connection. These photos become a cherished reminder of the love and closeness that make your family uniquely yours.



LET'S TALK ABOUT
us





the gift of
FRIENDSHIP

This might surprise you, coming from your photographer's guide, but if there's one thing we want you to take away, it's this: We deeply value our connection with every client.

While Better Half Media isn't our full-time gig, we pour our hearts into every session we take on. That means we only book a limited number each year, so we can focus on giving each one the care and creativity it deserves.

A few years into our journey, we started craving more purpose—a deeper impact. We loved the images we created, but something was missing. We realized that what we truly desired was genuine connection—the chance to know our clients beyond just their session.

Everyone wants to be seen, heard, understood. We've never met anyone who didn't appreciate someone taking a real interest in their lives, their family, their story.

So, we made a commitment to building friendships with our clients—to truly care, listen, and connect on a deeper level. And it changed everything.

Having that heart for friendship has transformed our business into something far more meaningful than just taking photos. It's become a calling—a way to celebrate life, love, and the relationships that make it all worthwhile.

But it's not just a gift to us—this emphasis on friendship creates something beautiful for you, too. Imagine this: it's the day of your session. The kids are excited, the dog's running circles, and you're hoping for that one perfect shot. Wouldn't it be a relief to see a familiar face with a camera—someone who feels more like a friend than a stranger?

Friendship breeds comfort, and comfort leads to trust. That trust is what allows us to capture those authentic, joyful, and heartfelt moments that make your photos so special.

We can't wait to get to know you better—to laugh with you, hear your stories, and start building that friendship. It's going to be such a special journey!



YOUR SESSION

Now that you've booked your session, it's time to celebrate! 🎉 You've taken the first step toward preserving this season of life — whether it's the joy of growing your family, marking an anniversary, or simply wanting to remember this chapter just as it is. It's more than just a photoshoot — it's a chance for us to connect, for you to get comfortable in front of the camera, and for us to capture your story in a way that feels natural and true to you.

Think of it as a little pause in life — a time to slow down, laugh together, and create images that will mean even more as the years go by. You'll experience firsthand how we guide you through natural prompts, how we play with light, and how we bring out those effortless, genuine moments that define your story.

When to Schedule:

Your portrait session can be booked anytime, but we recommend planning it 1-2 months in advance to ensure availability and the best seasonal light.

Since our weekends are usually booked with weddings and ministry events, we typically plan sessions on weekday evenings, around 5-7pm depending on the season and available light.

Location, Location, Location:

We LOVE when clients choose a location that holds meaning — maybe it's your favorite park, the street where you first met, or your own backyard. It adds such authenticity and heart to your photos.

But if you're not sure, no worries! We're always happy to brainstorm ideas and find the perfect backdrop. From cozy in-home sessions to open fields, downtown spots, or hidden corners of nature — we can make magic anywhere.

What to Wear:

Next up, we'll dive into outfit inspiration and tips to help you look and feel amazing during your session. Keep reading for guidance on choosing outfits that complement your location, style, and each other beautifully!

SESSION PREP

We get it – having your picture taken can be a little nerve-wracking, even if it's just a quick snap on your phone! We all want to look our best, make sure our hair is cooperating, and maybe even double-check for anything stuck in our teeth!

So, it's completely understandable if you're feeling a bit overwhelmed about your upcoming session.

But don't worry, we've got your back!

Over the next few pages, we'll share our top tips on everything from choosing the perfect outfits and handling those pre-shoot jitters to making sure your session is as fun and relaxed as possible. By the time you're done reading, you'll be feeling confident, excited, and ready to rock your session!



the basics + what to bring

POCKETS | Empty your pockets! Phones and keys create unsightly lines in photos, and they're surprisingly tricky to edit out. A quick check ensures a smooth silhouette and effortless photos!

TIMING | The sun sets fast, especially outside of summer. Arrive on time to soak up that dreamy golden light. Once the sun dips, the shoot's done, so let's make every minute count!

TOYS & SNACKS | Happy kids make for happy photos! Bring along a few small snacks (nothing messy!) and a favorite toy or two to keep little ones smiling between shots. Familiar items can help them relax and make the session feel more like playtime than posing. A few fun bribes never hurt either — we fully support the power of gummy bears!

PARKING FEE | While we hope it won't be an issue, some locations we visit may have cash-only parking fees or tolls. It's a small detail that can cause unexpected stress, so we recommend planning ahead and having some cash on hand just in case. Let's keep the focus on fun and avoid any unnecessary hiccups along the way!

CLOTHING | We'll dive into outfit choices in more detail later. We understand that outfit changes can take time and disrupt the flow of your shoot. That's why we encourage you to choose one outfit that you absolutely love and feel confident in. We'll focus on capturing stunning images that highlight your personalities and connection, without the hassle of multiple wardrobe changes.

FLIP FLOPS | We love a good pair of statement shoes, but those stilettos might not be ideal for trekking across uneven terrain or navigating rocky paths. Pack a pair of comfy flip-flops or sneakers to slip on while we walk between locations. You'll be grateful for the comfort, and we'll capture those glamorous shoe shots when it's time to pose!

LIP COLOR & HAIRSPRAY | A quick touch-up can make all the difference! Pack a travel-sized hairspray and brush to tame any flyaways caused by the Texas humidity. And ladies, don't forget to bring your favorite lip color for a refresh!

DEEP BREATHS | We'll guide you every step of the way, making sure you feel relaxed and have a blast. Think of this as a fun date or family night—plan a special dinner afterward and celebrate this exciting time in your lives! Let's create memories that will last a lifetime.



OUTFITS & STYLING

Believe it or not, you have a **HUGE** influence on the final look and feel of your photos. What you wear plays a big role, and we know it can sometimes cause a bit of pre-shoot stress. But we're here to help! With a little guidance, you'll be able to pinpoint the style and vibe you want, making those outfit choices a whole lot easier.

First things first, let's bust some common outfit myths that often trip couples up!

Outfit Myths: Let's Set the Record Straight

1. MYTH ONE: *Avoid neutrals, they wash you out!*

Not true! Neutrals are actually some of the most photogenic colors. While certain colors might not flatter everyone, most people look incredible in neutrals, and they shouldn't be dismissed!

2. MYTH TWO: *Always wear black or you won't look thin!*

While black can be slimming, it can also appear heavy in photographs. There's nothing wrong with black, but if you're dreaming of light and airy portraits, it might not be the best choice.

3. MYTH THREE: *You two need to match!*

Matching outfits can look a bit dated and stiff. Instead, aim for coordination! This means choosing colors and styles that complement each other without being identical. We'll share more tips on this later on!

4. MYTH FOUR: *Your location determines your style more than your outfit!*

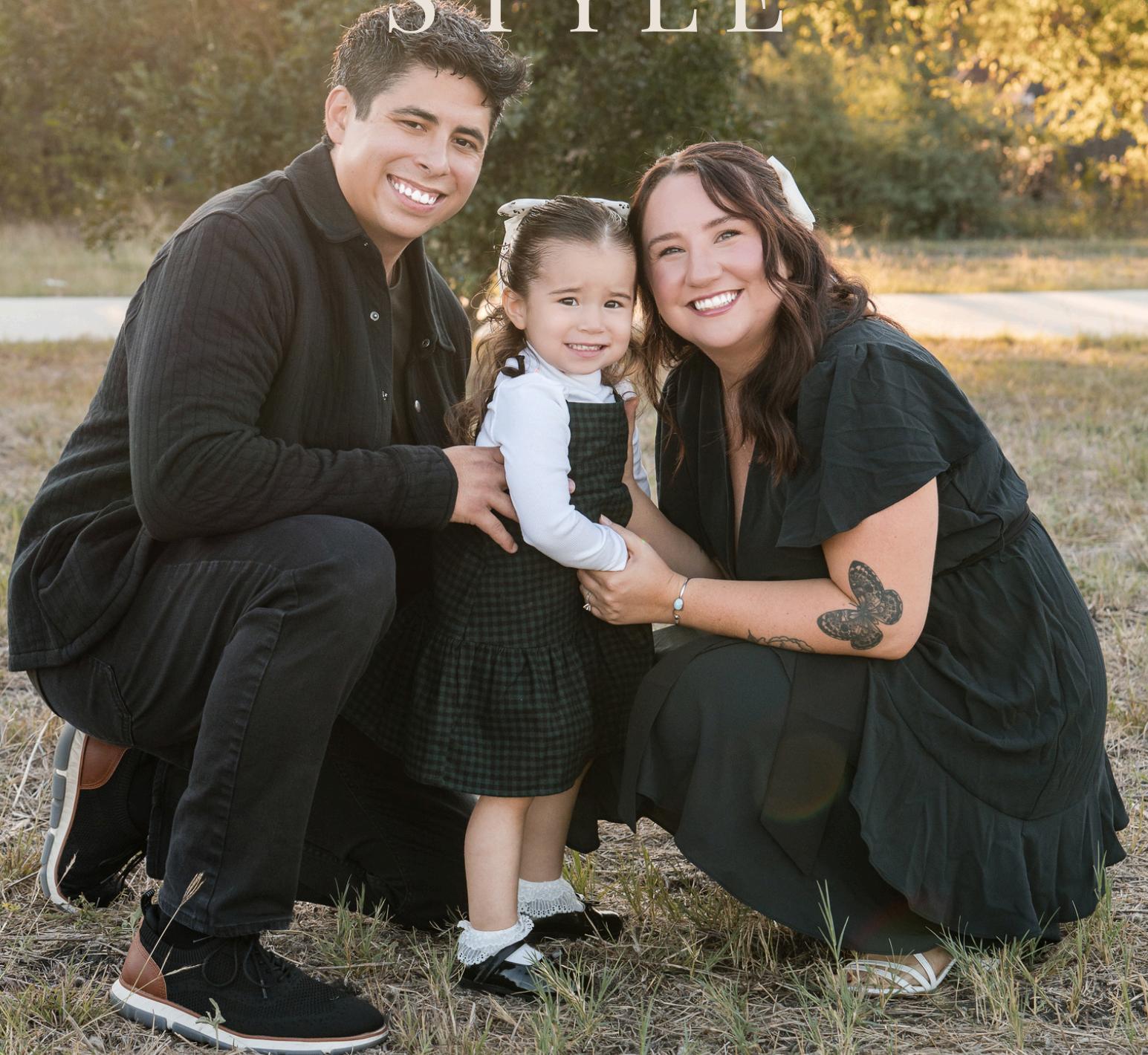
Nope! Your outfits have a much bigger impact on the overall look and feel of your photos. While the location provides a backdrop, you two are the main focus. So, if you want those light and airy vibes, lighter, more neutral colors will help achieve that regardless of where you're shooting.

5. MYTH FIVE: *You have to buy something new!*

Not at all! If you have an outfit you love that fits the style you're going for, rock it! Don't feel pressured to buy something new just for the shoot. Confidence is the best accessory!



DECIDING ON YOUR
STYLE



what style do you prefer?

BOLD or NEUTRAL

DRESSY or CASUAL

CLASSIC or TRENDY

These choices represent the three main decisions you'll need to make about your outfits. There are no right or wrong answers! Maybe you envision your photos to be classy and elegant, or perhaps you're wanting an airy "day in the park" look. These categories will hopefully help you pinpoint what you're envisioning for your engagement session.

Feeling a bit stuck? That's totally normal! Let's explore some general "rules of thumb" when it comes to styling for a session. These are based on our experience and aren't set-in-stone rules, but they can provide a helpful starting point. And if you have any questions or want to break the mold, just shoot us a text— we're happy to brainstorm together!

Things to Avoid:

- 1. Color Caution:** While we love a vibrant pop of color, super bright reds, neons, and bright oranges can sometimes reflect onto your skin and create tricky color casts in your photos. Let's aim for a palette that complements your natural tones.
- 2. Pattern Play:** Tiny patterns, smaller than a quarter, can cause a bit of a visual hiccup in digital images called "chromatic aberration." If you're a fan of patterns, let's go for larger, bolder designs. And fellas, checkered shirts are totally cool as long as the checks aren't too tiny!
- 3. Balance is Key:** If one of you is sporting dark jeans, consider lighter pants for the other. Similarly, if one person is wearing a navy top, let's avoid another dark or heavy color on top. Balancing the "heaviness" of your outfits helps create a more visually pleasing and harmonious look in your photos.
- 4. Dress Code Harmony:** We suggest aiming for a similar level of dressiness for both of you. One person in jeans and a t-shirt while the other is rocking a cocktail dress can create a bit of an awkward contrast in the images.
- 5. A Few More No-Nos:** Let's leave the tennis shoes, graphic tees, shirts with big logos, sunglasses, and baseball caps at home for this one. We want your personalities to shine, not your favorite sports team!

Remember, these are just guidelines! If you have a specific look in mind or want to break a few rules, let's chat about it. We're all about capturing your unique style!

ROMANTIC STYLE RECIPE

If you're dreaming of a romantic, "light and airy" aesthetic for your photos, your outfit choices play a key role! Here's a recipe for creating that soft, dreamy look. You don't have to include every ingredient, but the more you add, the more romantic and luminous your photos will be:

- **Neutral Colors:** Blushes, tans, light pinks, faint blues, light minty teals, creams, grays, and whites naturally lend themselves to a light and airy style. These colors photograph beautifully, creating a soft and romantic feel.
- **Long, Flowy Skirts/Dresses:** Dresses and skirts with feminine ruffles, layers of fabric, and the ability to catch the wind add a touch of magic to your photos. You'd be amazed at how movement and texture can soften an image and create an ethereal feel.
- **Khakis vs. Jeans:** If you're aiming for maximum brightness, consider lighter-colored pants for the groom instead of dark dress pants or jeans. This helps maintain a consistent, light tone throughout your photos.

Remember, these are just guidelines. If you have a specific vision or want to mix things up, just let us know. We're here to collaborate and make your dream photos a reality!

BRIGHT & BOLD RECIPE

Want your photos to burst with energy and personality? We're all for it! Here are the ingredients for creating a bold and vibrant look. You don't need to use them all, but each one adds a splash of color and excitement:

- **Pattern Power (But Only for One):** If one of you is rocking a bold pattern, it's crucial that the other doesn't. The more eye-catching the pattern, the more important this rule becomes. Let one person steal the show!
- **Backgrounds that Pop:** For a bright and bold session, we'll often look for solid-colored backgrounds that complement (or even match!) your outfits. It's a win-win for creating visually stunning images.
- **One Bold Color at a Time:** To achieve that striking, vibrant look without going overboard, we recommend only one of you wearing a bold color. The other can balance things out with a solid neutral.
- **Go Big or Go Home with Patterns:** If you're loving a patterned piece, make sure it features larger designs. Patterns smaller than a quarter can be tricky to photograph clearly.
- **Muted Tones Can Still Pack a Punch:** If you have a favorite bold color, consider a muted version of it. Love bright purple? Try a softer lavender or periwinkle instead. You'll still get that vibrant vibe without overwhelming the photo.

Remember, we're here to help you brainstorm and create a look that's perfect for you. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or want to explore more bold and bright options!



LIFESTYLE SESSION

Approximate Start Times

SPRING

Apr/May - Varies

As the days get longer, so do our shooting hours! Expect a start time around 5:30-7:30pm in April, shifting to 6:00-8:00pm in May.

SUMMER

Jun-Aug 6:30-8:30pm

Summer evenings offer gorgeous sunsets and cooler temperatures, making for a perfect shoot.

FALL

Sept/Nov - Varies

Fall sunsets are stunning but fleeting! We'll start around 5:30-7:30pm in September, then adjust to 5:00-7:00pm until mid-October. By November, we're back to 3:00-5:00pm.

WINTER

Dec-Mar 3:00-5:00pm

Bundle up and embrace the cozy winter light! Keep in mind, the time shifts in mid-March, so we'll adjust the start time accordingly.



LOGISTICS

-We dedicate our weekends to capturing wedding magic and serving at ministry events, so sessions typically take place on weekday evenings.

-We adore beautiful settings! We recommend sticking to one location for your session, but we can do two if you'd like. Just a heads up that more locations mean more travel and setup time, which might require extending your session (and potentially incurring additional fees).

-We're happy to do a sunrise shoot if needed! This is especially helpful for those who have unique or set sleep schedules for their kids.

-We're always up for an adventure and love exploring new places! If your dream location is unfamiliar to us, just a little parking advice would be fantastic.



PREPARING THE FAMILY



PREPARING THE FAMILY

If you're a bit worried about how your guy will feel about this whole "picture" thing, you're definitely not alone! We hear from so many wives concerned that their husbands (or even kids) won't be into it. But here's the good news: you're both more photogenic than you think!

We constantly surprise families by uncovering their hidden modeling skills. And the most common response we hear? "That wasn't as bad as I thought!"

It was actually fun!"

Mission accomplished! When the family says taking pictures was fun, we know we've done our job well. Your session is supposed to be enjoyable and laid-back, not forced or awkward.

Here are a few tips to help your family know what to expect and feel more at ease:

- **Show and Tell:** Sit down together and browse through a few of your favorite sessions we've photographed. This gives him a visual reference and helps set realistic expectations.
- **Time is Your Friend:** Allow plenty of time to get to your shoot. Rushing and last-minute stress can dampen the mood.
- **Patience & Positivity:** Remember, they might be a little nervous at first. Be patient and supportive, and don't assume they won't have a good time. We're confident that everyone will enjoy the experience!

We're here to create a fun, relaxed environment where your love shines through. So, leave the worries behind and get ready to have some fun in front of the camera!



SESSIONS
&
SEASONS



Seasonal Portrait

+

Timing Tips

WINTER

Winter sessions have a special kind of magic, but they take a little extra planning thanks to those early sunsets. The sun typically sets around 4pm, so we'll want to schedule your session earlier in the day to make the most of that soft, glowing light. Cozy sweaters, snuggly blankets, and warm hands wrapped together — winter portraits always have a timeless, heartwarming feel.

SUMMER

Summer sessions are pure sunshine! We love the long days and golden evenings that make every image glow. Since daylight can last until 8:30pm, we'll plan your session around sunset for that warm, dreamy light. The heat is real this time of year, so light clothing, water breaks, and a little grace for the Texas humidity go a long way. Summer portraits are relaxed, joy-filled, and full of genuine warmth.

SPRING

Spring sessions are full of fresh color and soft light, making them one of our favorite times to shoot! The temperatures are comfortable, but with all the new blooms, allergies can sneak up — so pack a little Claritin just in case. Spring also brings some of the prettiest backdrops of the year. If we spot flowering trees or wildflowers, we'll definitely take advantage and capture those dreamy, seasonal portraits.

FALL

Fall sessions are some of our absolute favorites! The light is golden, the air is crisp, and the colors are incredible. Those rich tones make every photo feel warm and timeless. The sun sets a bit earlier this time of year, so we'll plan for late afternoon to catch that soft glow. Even if the leaves haven't fully turned, just one colorful tree can create the perfect autumn backdrop.

FAMILY FORMALS

A Sample List

Kyland and I absolutely love meeting your family! Extended sessions with grandparents, siblings, or even the whole crew are some of our favorites because they're full of connection, laughter, and stories. To make sure we capture every combination that matters most to you, we'll send over a quick questionnaire before your session where you can list out the groupings you'd love to include. This helps us plan ahead and keep things flowing smoothly during your shoot. If we run out of time for larger group photos, don't worry — we'll be sure to grab those extra shots before we wrap up!

Whole Family (everyone together)

Grandparents with All Grandkids

Parents with Adult Children

Siblings Together

Each Individual Family Unit

(for blended or extended families)

Cousins Together

Couple Portraits for Each Pair (great for grown kids or
grandparents!)

Family Pet Included in One or Two Group Shots

If there's anyone extra special you want photographed, just let us know ahead of time. We'll make sure everyone gets their moment in front of the camera — and we'll keep things light, organized, and fun the entire time!



TRUSTING SESSION LOCATIONS

One of our favorite parts of every session is finding beauty in unexpected places! Some of the most stunning portraits we've ever captured happened in ordinary spots — a quiet corner of a park, a field off the side of the road, or even a client's own backyard. What makes the image magical isn't the background itself, but the light, the emotion, and the connection you share. When you trust us with location choices, it allows us to focus on those artistic details — the glow of the sun behind you, the movement of your hands, the laughter that fills the frame. So don't stress about where we'll shoot; we'll guide you the whole way. All you need to do is show up, be yourselves, and trust that we'll turn any space into something beautiful and uniquely you.



THE CASE OF A
RAINY
SESSION DAY

One of the most common questions we get before a session is, "What happens if it rains?" We totally understand — weather in Texas can be unpredictable! The good news is, even if the skies look gloomy, you'll still end up with beautiful, joy-filled portraits. Overcast skies actually create soft, flattering light that makes colors pop and skin tones glow.

If rain does show up, we'll handle all the adjustments — from finding a covered location to rescheduling if needed. Sometimes all it takes is one porch, an awning, or a big tree to keep shooting while staying dry. And if rescheduling is the better call, we'll work with you to find the next available date that keeps your session stress-free.

Our biggest advice? Don't let the forecast steal your excitement. Every season brings its own beauty — and we'll make sure your photos reflect that, rain or shine!



This was taken in the rain! It was during the couple's portraits, and it is proof that the rain can't keep us from taking beautiful images! Don't let the fear of rain steal your joy. You can't control it, and we promise we will make the best of it!



YOUR ONLINE GALLERY

Your online gallery is where all the magic comes together! It's a beautiful, easy-to-use space where you can view, download, and share your images with friends and family. We want you to enjoy your photos freely and confidently — no watermarks, no limits — just stunning, high-resolution images that capture your story perfectly.

Once your gallery is ready, you'll receive a link straight to your inbox. From there, you can download individual favorites or the entire collection at once. For the best experience, we recommend using a computer rather than a phone — the files are high-quality and may be too large for mobile downloads.

You'll also have access to our professional print shop directly through your gallery! From wall art to albums, every print is made with color accuracy and long-lasting quality. We always encourage professional printing — it's the best way to honor your investment and see your memories come to life beautifully in your home.

Your gallery will remain online for one full year, so be sure to download and safely back up your images as soon as possible. Save them on a hard drive, cloud storage, or both — your future self will thank you!



THANK YOU

We're so thrilled at the opportunity to capture this season of your life! Whether you're celebrating love, family, or simply the beauty of right now, we know how meaningful it is to preserve these moments. Our goal is to make this experience easy, enjoyable, and full of joy from start to finish.

As you prepare for your session, remember — this is about connection, not perfection. The sweetest images often come from genuine laughter, spontaneous moments, and letting things unfold naturally. Don't stress about keeping everyone perfectly posed or polished. We'll handle the details and make sure everyone looks their best while still feeling like themselves.

After your session, you'll receive your full gallery with all the images that tell your story — ready to share, print, and relive for years to come. We can't wait for you to see how your love, laughter, and personality shine through each frame.

If you ever have questions or ideas before, during, or after your session, please don't hesitate to reach out! You can email us anytime at captured@betterhalf.media. From our family to yours, thank you for trusting us to document these precious memories — it's truly an honor to be part of your story.

Love, Paige & Ky