

Counting On's **Duggar** and new fiancé **Vuolo** talk to *Us* about the essentials, from first kiss to babies!

JINGER & JEREMY

Our Love Story

Growing up, Jinger Duggar didn't fantasize about a fairy-tale future. "I was never one of those girls to sit around like, 'Oh, I want this proposal, this ring, this wedding,'" the star of TLC's *Counting On* (returns August 23, 8 P.M.) tells *Us*. "I always thought, Whatever this young man does, I'm sure I'll be so in love." But as the sixth of Jim Bob and Michelle's 19 kids watched older sisters Jill Dillard and Jessa Seewald start their own families, she began to pray for her own love story. "It's just really sweet to see," Jinger has said of the couples. "I'm hoping for the same years down the road." The devout Baptist's timeline was off — way off. In December, while on a

"Jeremy seems to be strong, while Jinger loves someone leading," says her sis Jill of the duo (July 26 in NYC).

mission trip in Central America, she bonded with former soccer pro Jeremy Vuolo (the two had met through Jessa and her husband, Ben, in May 2015) and they soon began courting. Seven months later — and only a month after they publicly announced the courtship — the pastor proposed with a .75-carat ring July 25. The pair opened up to *Us*'s Jamie Blynn on a conference call — Jinger, 22, phoning from her hometown of Tontitown, Arkansas, and Vuolo, 28 (she calls him “babe”), in Laredo, Texas — about their fast-track romance.

Proposal story, please!

JD It was beautiful! It was on a rooftop in New York City at sunset. He had someone playing a favorite song [the hymn “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”]. I walked out and he dropped down on one knee. I was caught off guard, like, “Oh, my! I cannot believe this is the time.”

JV It took a month to plan. I wanted the proposal to encapsulate who she is — not something big and boisterous. I wanted to keep it in a place she loves, just a few people.

Was it tough finding the ring?

JV Before going into the shop, I didn't think an inanimate object could speak to you and say it's the right one. When I saw it, I immediately knew. It was also important for me to bring Mr. Duggar and Ben to confirm what I felt was best for Jinger. It was an unanimous decision.

Take *Us* back to that mission trip. What attracted you to each other?

JD I saw Jeremy's heart for Christ. That's what I was drawn to.
JV Obviously, when you see Jinger, she's an absolutely beautiful young woman. But for me, when I saw her caring for and thinking of the people



They'll wed indoors, says Vuolo (in NYC July 26), to avoid weather anxiety!

SWEATING THE WEDDING-DAY DETAILS

Let's just say the couple's to-do list is a long one

» The bride and groom are planning a first for this Duggar generation: a small celebration. “We're trying to keep it intimate, between family and friends,” Vuolo reveals of their upcoming Arkansas nuptials. “We want to be very intentional with who we invite.” (The 2014 guest lists for Jill and Jessa each totaled about 1,000.) Jinger and Vuolo's favorite hymn, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” which played during his proposal, will also have an instrumental role. “We both love music,” she says. “It will definitely be incorporated somehow.” Still up in the air: the date, the theme, the gown (“I'm hoping to get that started soon because it can be a long process,” she admits) and the menu. Nonetheless, wedding talk has left her fiancé hungry. Jokes Vuolo, “Now you have me thinking about cake!”

everyone else overlooked, that stood out. She wasn't out trying to be seen for what she was doing.

America met Jeremy in June, and you were engaged by July. How did you know the time was right?

JV The official announcement made it seem like it was a real

whirlwind. But if you actually look back at the timeline, I was first introduced to Jinger in the beginning of 2015. For the first eight months or so — I haven't done the math — we weren't romantically interested in each other. We were purely friends. It was not like we met each other,

Sister, Sister

The **Dillard**s are home! The **Seewald**s are adopting! *Us* catches up with Jinger's older sibs for a summer report

Jill & Derick

BACK IN THE USA Jill, 25, Derick, 27, and son Israel, 16 months, returned August 4 from a yearlong mission trip in Central America and will stay put in Arkansas through the fall. According to Jill, the Dillard's are embracing the reverse culture shock: “We can enjoy a hot shower, and our cars have air-conditioning!”

ALONE TIME The pair never used a sitter abroad. Now “we're making up for lost time,” jokes Jill. “The day we got back, we were able to go on a date to the grocery store while Jess and Ben watched Israel.”

BILINGUAL BABY Izzy mastered “hello” in Spanish before English, says Mom. “He says ‘Papi,’ ‘Mami’ and ‘agua.’”

JUST LIKE DAD Their son copies everything Derick does. “When Derick sits at the table, Israel pulls up his little chair and sits down next to him,” gushes Jill.

GROWING THE FAMILY While she'd “love to have another baby,” Jill acknowledges there are “real risks” to being pregnant when they return to Central America. “There is violence, and we don't have the best medical care at our fingertips.”



Jill and Derick take Izzy for a swim on an upcoming episode of *Counting On*.

Jessa & Ben

UPWARDLY MOBILE

The Seewald's 9-month-old son, Spurgeon, “is crawling all over the place,” says Jessa. “He's pulling up on and walking along furniture too.” The tot is a dining daredevil as well, she adds: “He's an adventurous eater and loves trying new foods.”

BABY NO. 2 Counselors advised the eager-to-adopt couple (“Our hearts are open,” Jessa says) to wait until her son reaches 9 months in November. In the interim, she adds, “Ben and I went to an adoption

information meeting, and we've also been connecting with other couples to hear about their journeys.”

SUMMER PLANS While Jessa, 23, kept tabs on Spurgie, husband Ben, 21, who handles real estate maintenance with her dad, picked up a side gig. “He worked with former football players to put on a camp for kids,” she says.
THE PERFECT MATCH Jinger and fiancé Vuolo “were meant to be,” gushes Jessa, who chose Jinger to be her maid of honor in 2015. “They are a dynamic team.”



Ice cream! The family celebrated Spurgie's 4-month birthday March 1.



Spurgie (July 21) got new shoes at a consignment store.

OPPOSITE PAGE: JAMES SONG/SONOGRAPHY.COM (2); THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: COURTESY OF DERICK DILLARD/INSTAGRAM; TL; COURTESY OF JESSA SEEWALD (2)

got into a relationship and then we're engaged! [*Laughs.*]

Still, seven months from courtship to engagement is not a lot of time.

JV By the time it was announced, we had seen each other in difficult situations, good times and bad times. We had seen how the other dealt with conflicts. We've really gotten to know each other on a very deep level.

You're 771 miles apart. Has that put a strain on your relationship?

JD We've been able to go so deep, so quick because our relationship with Christ is the central focus. We have phone conversations, we FaceTime and text. It's been a blessing. We get to see each other quite often, as well. **JV** About every two weeks, I'd say.

Jill and Jessa also once had long-distance relationships. Did you get any sisterly advice from them?

JD I think being able to talk together and pray together. Those were their most special moments, so they really shared that.

How have you shown each other that you care?

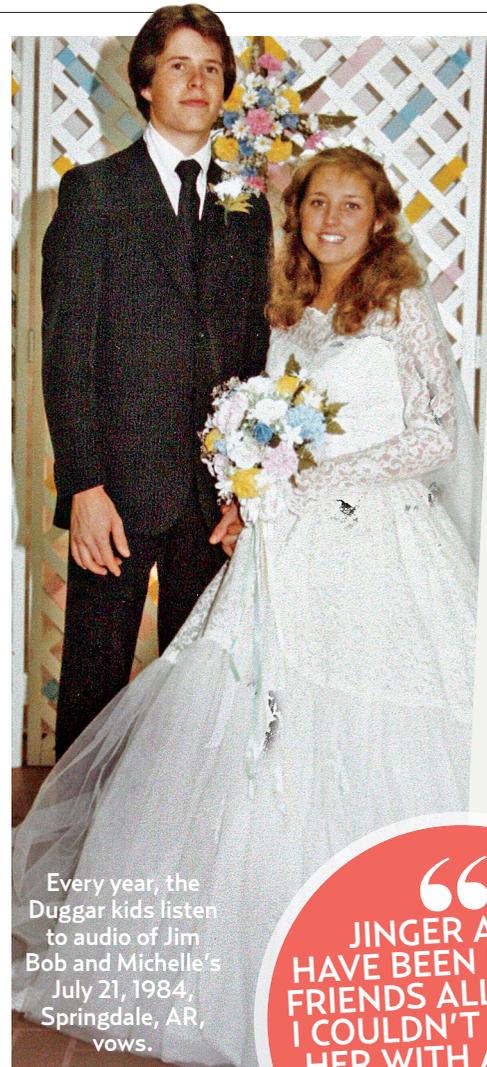
JD He is definitely a gentleman in every manner and aspect. He can tell if I've had a hard day. One day he sent flowers, chocolate and a note. Those small things mean a lot.

JV I don't stray too far from most guys, where the way to my heart is through my stomach. [*Laughs.*] One time she sent me a huge box with jelly beans, M&M's and beef jerky. For a guy living the bachelor lifestyle, it doesn't get much better! **JD** We love sending letters here and there, just encouragement. I think those are superspecial.

JV It's wonderful to receive those just out of the blue and hear her heart.

Jinger, have you picked up any soccer skills from Jeremy?

JD I'm definitely not as athletic as Jeremy! I enjoy watching soccer



Every year, the Duggar kids listen to audio of Jim Bob and Michelle's July 21, 1984, Springdale, AR, vows.

“JINGER AND I HAVE BEEN BEST OF FRIENDS ALL ALONG. I COULDN'T IMAGINE HER WITH ANYONE MORE PERFECT FOR HER.”

JESSA TELLS US

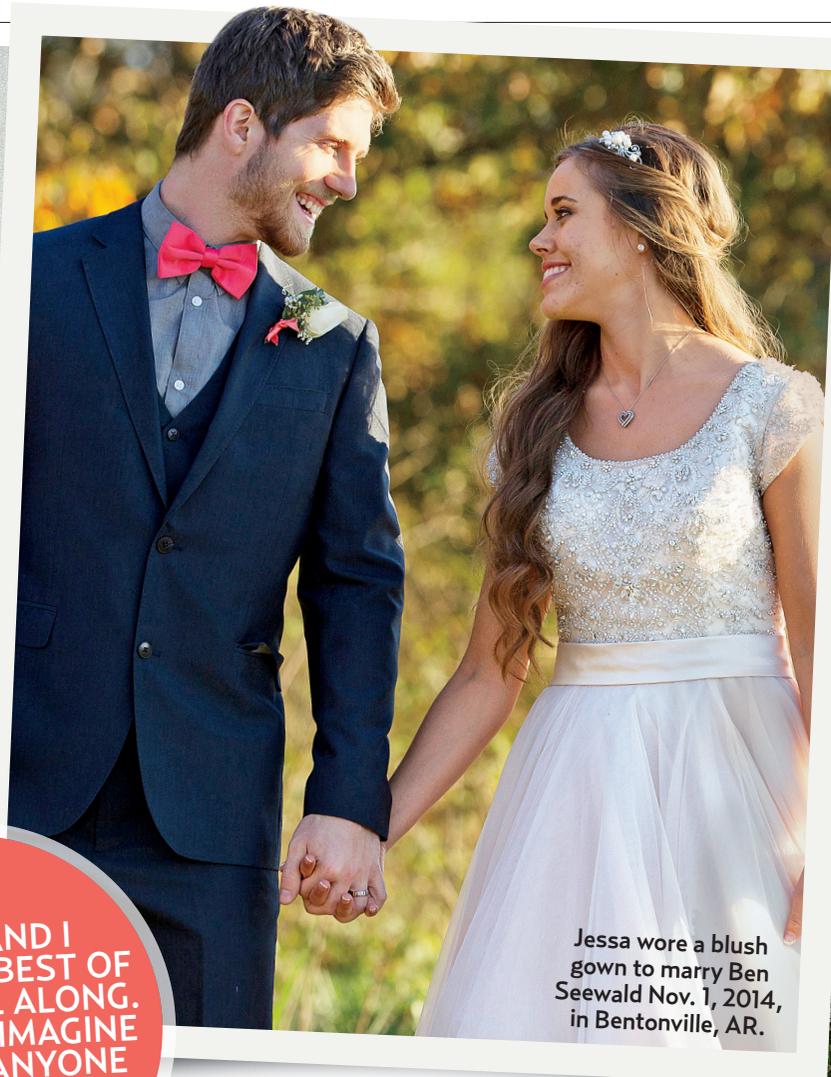
highlights with him. He tries to explain them to me. I'm excited to learn more because it's Jeremy's favorite sport.

Jeremy, has Jinger's family interrogated you?

JV [*Laughs.*] Of course. They have to do their due diligence. They're family. They asked me the questions. They try and prank me at times too. One time, Jinger spared me from a prank, which I'm grateful for. [*Explains Jessa, "Some of the little kids tried to confuse him and make him think they were someone they were not!"*]

Has wedding planning begun?

JD There is definitely a lot that goes into a wedding. We're just walking



Jessa wore a blush gown to marry Ben Seewald Nov. 1, 2014, in Bentonville, AR.

through the initial process here and hoping to get things under way. [*See box, page 36.*]

JV My big responsibility is to pick the groomsmen. If I do much else, I'll probably mess up. [*Laughs.*]

You've been careful to set physical boundaries before marriage — for example, only hugging from the side. Why is it important for you?

JV We really just want to glorify God in how we interact with each other and be an example to others. In the Scripture, we're not given a set of rules for our physical interactions, but we're called to be pure. That's what we're striving to do.

JD For Jeremy and I, we've talked about how we walk forward so

that we're just honoring Christ all along the way.

Any butterflies about your first kiss on the big day?

JD [*Laughs.*] Nope!

JV Excited!

Jinger, you'll be moving to Laredo to work alongside Jeremy in his ministry. Any reservations?

JD I'm so excited to be joining my best friend. And I know my family has already discussed visiting.

Looking ahead, how many kids do you want?

JD [*Laughs.*] Well, I love kids. I'm excited for the future, when Jeremy and I are married, to start a family. As for the timing, we're not sure.

JV We haven't talked about family



Six bridesmaids attended Jill at her wedding to Derick Dillard June 21, 2014, in Springdale, AR.

size, but I know we both love children. They're a joy. We'll have to see what the Lord provides.

Are you thinking double digits?

JD [*Laughs.*] I guess we'll have to wait and see.

When you picture your future, what do you see?

JV I'm excited to start life together and to get into the normalcy of ministry. In 10 years, I want to be continuing to serve the Lord as a pastor, with Jinger by my side.

JD It's an answer to my prayers. I desire to be serving the Lord for many years and I asked God for this in a future spouse, and He has done far above anything I could have ever imagined or dreamed in bringing Jeremy into my life. **US**

5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT JEREMY

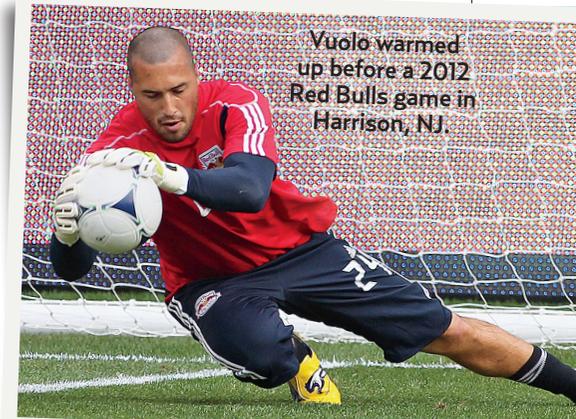
1 The Downingtown, Pennsylvania, native has two siblings: an older sister and an older brother.

2 His dad, Chuck, 64, is also a pastor. Says Vuolo, who was ordained in March, "He is the most gracious, loving, kind, Christ-like man I have ever known."

3 "I don't own a TV," he tells *Us*. So he and Jinger will likely forgo tuning in — just like her parents, who made a conscious decision to give up TV for their first year as husband and wife. Explains Vuolo, "We don't want any unnecessary distractions."

4 The 6-foot-3 goalkeeper played soccer at New York's Hartwick College and, as a senior in 2010, Syracuse University. During that time, he made more than 200 saves in 69 games.

5 "When I was 12," Vuolo has said, "I made a distinct decision to be a professional soccer player." *Voilà!* In 2011 he signed on with a team in Finland, then returned Stateside to join the New York Red Bulls (2012) and the San Antonio Scorpions (2013). He has even met David Beckham!



Vuolo warmed up before a 2012 Red Bulls game in Harrison, NJ.