

**THIS IS A  
SAMPLE  
FROM  
ADVENTURES  
IN LIFE SERIES**

**Volume 9**

Teacher's Guide to Accompany

Your Story Hour<sup>®</sup>

**ADVENTURES  
IN LIFE  
SERIES**

**Album 9**

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A-13  
Story 1

## UNCLE JAKE

Kindly old man demonstrates faith

Uncle Jake Simmons lives in the County Home for the Aged. One day he receives a letter from his niece, Shirley Ann. She invites Uncle Jake to live with her and her husband, Dave. Shirley Ann also sends Uncle Jake a check for forty dollars so that he can make the journey to her home in El Cajon, California. The next day, Uncle Jake's friend, Ed Barnes, receives a telegram saying that his granddaughter has died. Ed is extremely sad, but he can't go to the funeral because he doesn't have any money. Uncle Jake gives Ed some of the money from Shirley Ann so that he can go to his granddaughter's funeral. This leaves Uncle Jake only ten dollars for himself. Uncle Jake decides to hitchhike to California. On his first day of hitchhiking, Uncle Jake walks for a long time before a man named Clem agrees to give Uncle Jake a ride to Marysville, where Clem's wife and children are. After traveling for a while, the car breaks down. Uncle Jake stays with the car while Clem walks to the nearest town to get a part to fix the car. Uncle Jake is in the car for a long time, playing his mouth organ and talking to himself and to God. In the evening, a man approaches the car and invites Uncle Jake to join his family for dinner. Uncle Jake enjoys his dinner with the Preston family and then returns to the car. For the next few days, Uncle Jake eats his meals with the Preston family and sleeps in the car. Finally, Clem returns to the car with the part to fix it. As they get on their way again, Clem tells Uncle Jake that it took him a long time to get back to the car because he got drunk while he was in town. Clem also explains that his wife and children left him because of his problem with alcohol. Uncle Jake prays for God to help Clem stop drinking, and when they arrive in Marysville, Clem and his wife are reunited. Uncle Jake catches another ride and ends up in Delano, which is still over 100 miles from where Shirley Ann lives. Uncle Jake doesn't have enough money for a hotel room, so he tries to sleep in a sheltered place outside of town. When Uncle Jake is too cold to try sleeping, he walks and prays until he sees a house full of bright lights. Uncle Jake knocks on the door and meets Mrs. Loveland, a Christian woman who invites him in for a hot breakfast. Then Mr. Loveland comes home from his night job and arranges for Uncle Jake to ride with a pastor who is driving to El Cajon. So Uncle Jake gets a ride directly to Shirley Ann's house. He surprises Shirley Ann and tells her how he gave away the money she sent him and hitchhiked to her house. Shirley Ann and her husband are glad that they decided to invite Uncle Jake to live with them.

### Main Characters

Uncle Jake Simmons—An elderly man who cared about people

Ed Barnes—Friend of Uncle Jake at the Home for the Aged

Clem Sanderfield—The first person to pick up Uncle Jake on the way to California

Shirley Ann—Uncle Jake's niece who invited Uncle Jake to live with her family

Dave—Husband of Shirley Ann

Becky, Judy, and Mr. and Mrs. Preston—Family who fed Uncle Jake while he waited for Clem

Mr. and Mrs. Loveland—Kind couple who fed Uncle Jake and helped him find a ride to El Cajon

### Other Characters Mentioned

Matron at the Home for the Aged

Granddaughter of Ed Barnes

Jesus—Savior of the world

Pastor who gave Uncle Jake a ride to El Cajon

### Content Questions




1. What instrument did Uncle Jake play?
2. What came with the letter Uncle Jake received from Shirley Ann?
3. Give two reasons Ed was sad after he received a telegram.
4. Why did Uncle Jake decide to hitchhike to Shirley Ann and Dave's house?
5. Why was Uncle Jake sitting in a car by the side of the road for several hours one afternoon?
6. While Uncle Jake was sitting in the car, a man approached. What did the man want?
7. Why did it take Clem so long to get the part to fix the car?
8. Why had Clem's wife left him?
9. Why couldn't Uncle Jake get a hotel room in Delano?
10. Uncle Jake asked Mrs. Loveland for a cup of coffee, but what did Mrs. Loveland invite Uncle Jake to have?
11. Who gave Uncle Jake a ride from Delano to his niece's house?

### Discussion Questions

1. Uncle Jake gave away the money that Shirley Ann and Dave had worked hard to save for him. If you were Shirley Ann or Dave, how would you have felt when you learned that Uncle Jake gave the money away?
2. Why is it important to be kind to the people we meet?
3. Uncle Jake prayed for Clem, taught the Preston family how to pray, and talked about his Christian beliefs with Mrs. Loveland. What are some ways you can share your faith with the people around you?
4. Do you agree with Mrs. Loveland and Uncle Jake that "helping others is the only true Christianity"? Why or why not?

### Map Activity

Locate the following places:

-  El Cajon, California, where Shirley Ann and Dave lived.
-  Marysville, California, where Clem was reunited with his wife and children.
-  Delano, California, where Uncle Jake ate breakfast with Mrs. Loveland.

**PLEASE NOTE:  
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