

ACE^s

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

*An
Introduction*

This is **one of six ACE Booklets** with different featured stories. To read the others, go to:
www.uniongospelmission.org/aces



WHAT IS AN ACE?

Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, are **traumatic events** that occur in childhood (0-17 years) including divorce, substance abuse in the home, violence, death or incarceration of a parent, and neglect. The higher an individual's ACE score, the more likely he or she is to experience chronic health problems, mental illness and substance abuse in adulthood. High ACE scores have also been linked to repeated job loss, incomplete education and homelessness.

On the following pages, you will have the chance to get to know a current or former UGM resident who experienced severe childhood trauma. As you keep reading, **we welcome you to pray** for your featured individual and for the countless men and women battling the effects of childhood trauma today.

[Meet Jackson ▶](#)



We bounced around, lived in a van...

no one wanted us staying around too long
because my dad's an addict.”

This is a real person, but we've used a
different name to protect his privacy.

JACKSON

CHILDHOOD



Substance abuse in the home, divorce, homelessness.

RESULT

Behavioral problems, depression substance abuse, gang violence, incarceration, suicidal tendencies, homelessness.

AT UGM



Successful completion: LIFE Recovery program.

TODAY

Recovery is a hard road. Not everyone maintains sobriety or a job after completing Program. Continue this workbook to see where Jackson is today.

Jackson's **ACE** Score ▶

THE ACE QUIZ

Count **1** for each type of event listed that occurred in your life before the age of 18.

- Physical or verbal intimidation from a parent
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Lack of love and support in the home
- Chronic or recurring hunger
- Loss of parent through divorce or abandonment
- Physical abuse witnessed
- Substance abuse in the home
- Depression, suicidality or mental illness in a family member
- Incarceration of parent or close family member

**JACKSON'S
SCORE:**

5

**YOUR
SCORE:**

Jackson Today ▶

TODAY

After completing UGM Recovery, Jackson re-entered an unhealthy relationship and fathered a child who he has not been able to raise. Jackson is committed to his sobriety, but still sees patterns persisting in his life from childhood.



If you or someone you know is struggling with the effects of trauma or abuse, please see the resources below.

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| Emergency Services: | National Helpline 1.800.662.HELP |
| Crisis Care and Recovery Services: | UGM Women's Intake 509.535.0486,
UGM Men's Intake 509.535.8510 ext. 1127 |
| Counseling Services: | Genesis Institute 509.467.7913 |
| Facts and Information: | CDC www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces |