

1. *The King's Garden*

Fruit of the Spirit: love

Love is ...

- *loving with the same kind of love that God has for us.*
- *loving God first*
- *treating others the way you would like to be treated yourself.*

Jesus said, "Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself. (Mark 12:30-31)

Welcome to Kanga Joe and Co! We're about to go on an adventure with two children, Charity and Charlie Chuckle, and their animal friends. The animals you're going to meet live in the Australian bush near Bunyip Creek.

Now the adventure really begins in a special garden, a long way from Bunyip Creek. The garden is called 'The King's Garden', and the children, Charity and Charlie, go to this special garden quite often to hear special messages from the King.

Would you like to know how to get to the King's Garden? Before we can go to the King's garden,

there's something we must do. We have to put on love.

Putting on love is a bit like putting on clothes really. It's something you **do**. When you get up in the morning you put on your clothes. You can also decide that today, you are going to be loving and kind to everyone you meet.

Let's do it then. Here we go...1, 2, 3...Put on L - O - V - E - love!

There's something you'll need to get into the King's Garden. It's called the key of life, but you'll hear more about that later. Now let's begin our story.

One day, Charlie and Charity were down by Bunyip Creek when they came across an old bottle.

"Look, Charlie!" said Charity. "It's a bottle with a message in it! Just like the ones people throw out to sea, and they hope that someone finds it. I wonder if it will have an important message in it."



Charity picked up the bottle from the muddy creek. She washed it carefully and dried it on her jeans. Very carefully she pulled out the cork and took a rolled-up piece of paper from inside.

"Does it say anything?" asked Charlie.

"Yes it does!" said Charity. "It says it's a message from the King."

"What King?" asked Charlie.

"It says it's from a King who has a special garden, and we can go there!"

"Is it a secret garden?" asked Charlie.

"No", said Charity. "The message says that the King, who owns the garden, wants everyone to know about it. He wants everyone to come to His garden."

"There's a key to the garden, Charlie," said Charity.

"Is it in the bottle?" asked Charlie.

"No it's not", replied Charity. "The message says that you can't get into the garden without the key. The key is found in the Bible. John 14:6 says, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". The King is the Father, and His son Jesus said this. We can only go to the Father through Jesus. This is the key of life.

"Go where?" asked Charlie.

"To the King's garden of course," replied Charity.

"The message says that the King's Garden is a place that the King has prepared for all who love and serve Him. It is a place where we will live forever, with no sadness, sickness, no darkness, fear or evil.

"That sounds wonderful. Why don't we go!" said Charlie.

"There's something else", said Charity, reading further, "If you truly want to go, you have to ask the King's Son, Jesus, to forgive you for all the wrong things you've ever done. Then ask Him to be your friend."

Now both Charlie and Charity had heard about Jesus. In fact they had been to the Bunyip Creek Christmas play just a month before, and they heard how God's Son, Jesus, the Son of the Heavenly King, was born into the world. Later, He died on a cross so that people could be forgiven for the things they'd done wrong, and so that people could become special friends with Jesus. Charlie and Charity knew what they had to do. If the King had sent them a special message, then they knew that they must make Jesus their friend.

The two children now had the special key, called the key of life.

"Now all we have to do is, 1, 2, 3, put on love!" said Charity. And they did. Before they knew it, the children were in the King's Garden.

"Oh, isn't this just beautiful, Charlie", exclaimed Charity. "Just look at all those animals. They're all playing together and not frightened of anyone or anything. That's because of the King's love. All the creatures in the garden know only love, and have no fear. I'm sure I could pick up this baby tiger..."

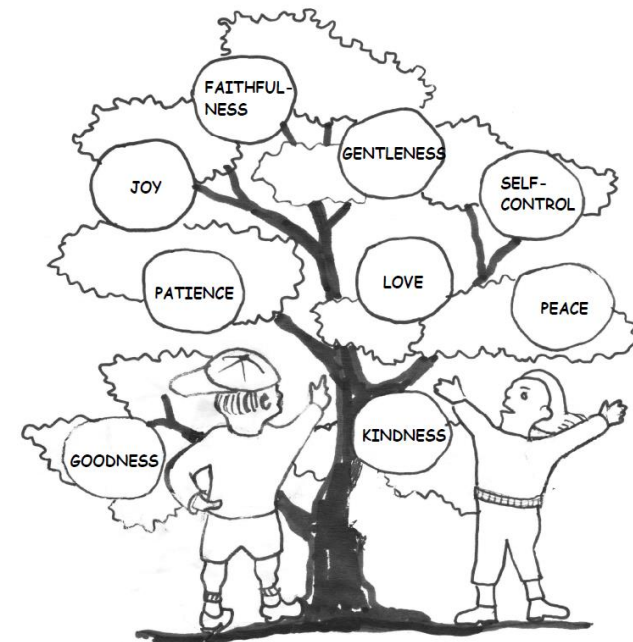


"And I'll stroke the mother tiger," said Charlie, having always wanted to pat a tiger.

"You know, I think Jesus wants us to be like these animals...loving, kind and gentle, trusting in the King's love" said Charity thoughtfully.

Then Charlie noticed how beautiful the plants were. "What's this tree," Charlie wondered. It looks like a fruit tree!"

"It *is* a fruit tree", said Charity. "Just look at all those different fruits. I've never seen different fruits on one tree before."



Activities

1. What are the two things you have to do to get to the King's Garden?

a) Put on sun glasses

b) Take the key of Salvation

c) Eat lots of fruit

d) Put on love

2. What did Jesus say? (unjumble) Mark 12:30

Love the Lord your God with all your

earth, dmni, sulo and etnsgrht.

3. Draw and name something that God made on each day of Creation.

4. What is special about the animals in the King's Garden?

5. Make a list of the fruits on the fruit tree in the King's Garden.

2. The Birthday Party

Fruit of the Spirit: joy

Joy is ...

- *the happiness that God gives*
- *sharing God's happiness with others*

It was Emily Emu's birthday. Emily didn't know it was her birthday. You know what Emus are like. They never know when their birthday is. Anyway, the animals of Bunyip Creek thought that they could do something special for Emily. They wanted to give her a birthday party.

Kanga Joe, being the fastest animal in the bush, bounded along, quickly giving invitations to everyone he met, carefully making sure that Emily didn't know about it..."Can you come to Emily Emu's birthday party, 5 o'clock today at the big rock?...Wally Wombat...Can you come?... and Katie Koala... and Billy Bilby...and Caroline Cockatoo."

Soon all the animals knew the time and the meeting place. It wasn't long before Kanga Joe ran into Emily.

"Hello Emily. I'm really busy at the moment. You don't think you could come over at 5 o'clock and help me with cleaning up my garden do you?" he asked. "You're so good at picking up papers. I could really use some help."

"Of course, I'll help," said Emily. What are friends for? I'll see you at 5 o'clock."

Now Emily thought that she was coming to do lots of work. Wouldn't she be in for a surprise! Making others happy is a way of sharing joy, and that's just what the animals were planning. They wanted to give Emily joy, by giving her a surprise party, and making her feel special.

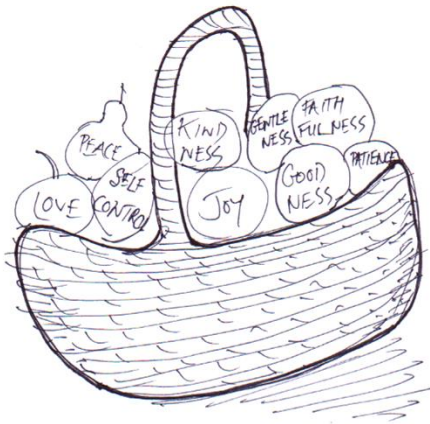
Happiness is another name for joy, and joy is one of the special fruits of the Spirit. When we are followers of the King, we have joy inside, and the King wants us to give that joy away to others.

Charity and Charlie had not been forgotten. They were invited too. They were busy deciding what to put in their picnic basket.

"How about some fruit," suggested Charity.

"What a good idea," said Charlie. "Let's pick a big basket of fruit."

But then Charlie thought of an even better idea. "Why don't we go to the King's Garden and get some of that really special fruit?"



"Excellent idea," said Charity. So off they went, taking their key of life and putting on love.

And today, instead of picking just one fruit, they picked every kind of fruit...love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. They filled up their basket, and hurried back to get everything ready.

All the animals were making preparations. There were lots of yummy things to eat and drink, as well as party hats, balloons and whistles.

It was nearly five o'clock, and the picnic table looked great.

Everyone hid behind the big rock. Soon Emily came along expecting to pick up her papers.

"I'll count to 3," said Kanga Joe, "and we'll all shout out "SURPRISE". Are you ready? Here she comes now..."

"Kanga Joe, where are you?" called Emily. "I'm here to help you pick up papers with my special Emu beak."

"1, 2, 3, SURPRISE," they all shouted. "Happy Birthday Emily!"

Soon they were there.

"Now let's find the special tree." said Charity "There it is."

Is it really my birthday today?" asked Emily. "How wonderful...and thank you everyone for coming to help me celebrate. Just look at this picnic table.

"You can have first choice of anything you like today Emily," said Kanga.

"Oh thank you. Those Pumpkin Gobble Kisses look delicious...Mmm and taste delicious too." she said. "Help yourself everyone!"

And so the animals, along with Charlie and Charity had a wonderful time together, sharing not just yummy food and fun, but sharing the fruits of the Spirit.

The next day, Charlie and Charity were on their way to the old apple tree that grew on the bank of Bunyip Creek. They were going to collect some apples to make an apple pie. They had almost filled their basket when they spotted old Mrs. Possum under the tree, eating an apple that had fallen on the ground. The children noticed that some of Mrs. Possum's fur had started to fall out. She was getting so old that collecting food was becoming very tiring for her.

"Why don't we give these fruits to old Mrs. Possum," said Charity.

"What a good idea," said Charlie.

The children knew where Mrs. Possum lived, so they quickly gathered up their basket and ran off to Mrs. Possum's gum tree.

"I love giving surprises," said Charity.

The children filled the hollow in the tree with the ripe juicy apples. What a surprise Mrs. Possum got when she returned home to find her hollow filled with apples!

"You know, we have just discovered another fruit from the King's Garden," said Charlie. "Giving things to others to make them happy is giving them JOY!"

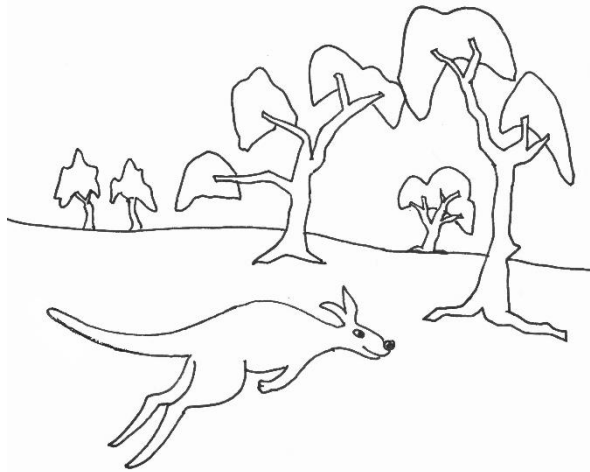
"I remember that fruit," said Charity. "Doing special things for people is a way of giving them joy...especially when the special thing we do is a surprise! We can give others joy by helping them. Like helping Mum and Dad to put away our toys and setting the table for dinner. I'm going to help Mum make the apple pie when I get home."

"That's right," thought Charlie. We can give Mum and Dad joy by doing the things we are asked to do. Being kind and thoughtful is showing joy."

"I know," said Charity. "We can make things for others too. We can make little presents for others even when it's not their birthday! That really would be a JOY surprise! Giving joy to others is being a servant of the King. Jesus wants all His children to be servants."

"I've just thought of a way that we can help all the animals to give joy to each other. We can make a sign and hang it on this tree," said Charlie. "We can write this little saying: JOY...J for Jesus first... O for others next...Y for yourself last."

The children found an old piece of board and some paints and got busy with their special sign. When it was finished they hung it on the tree for all the animals to see and it wasn't long before all the animals were doing special things for each other.



Activities:

1. Draw the sign that the children made. Fill in the missing words

J first
O next
Y Last

2. What is joy? (Pick the 2 best answers.)

- a) Eating all the ice-cream you can eat
- b) The happiness that God gives
- c) Sharing God's happiness with others
- d) Riding a skateboard

3. What did the children do for Mrs. Possum to give her joy?

4. What could you do to give another person joy?

3. The Drought

Fruit of the Spirit: peace

Peace is ...

- *a calm feeling inside, knowing that God is looking after you*
- *letting God take all your worries*

Katie Koala was so worried. There had been no rain for weeks and soon all the animals of the bush would be running out of food and water.

"Don't worry, Katie," said Caroline Cockatoo. "I'll help you find water. I know that the Good King will look after us. He'll send rain soon. Because I'm a bird I can help you in a special way. I'll fly high above the bush where I can get a bird's eye view of the rivers and water holes. Then I'll let you and the other animals know the best place to find water."

"Oh thanks, Caroline," said Katie. "You are such a kind bird. In the mean time I'll go and eat some more gum leaves. It's so hot, but I'll get some lovely refreshing juice from the leaves."



Katie settled down to eat her gum leaves, hoping that Caroline wouldn't be too long. She knew how urgently they needed to find water.

"I suppose Caroline is right," thought Katie. We must believe that the Good King will look after us. Worrying about things doesn't help. When we worry, we don't have peace."

Then she remembered something...

"Peace...isn't that one of the fruits of the Spirit...one of the special fruits in the King's garden? When Caroline comes back, I think we will go there together. I sure need some peace inside right now, so that I can stop worrying about this drought. Ah...here comes Caroline now. What did you find, Caroline?"

"There's a bit of water left in a water hole at the east end of the creek, Katie," said Caroline, "but all of the mud pools have dried up. There should be enough water to last a few more days, if we all drink only what we need and no more. We must tell the other animals where they can find water. We must also tell them that they must not worry, because the Good King will take care of them."

Caroline and Katie hurried off to find the other animals.

"Kanga Joe," they called, "...water to be found at the east end of the creek...tell the others...Emily Emu...water to be found at the east end of the creek ...tell the others...Mrs. Possum...water to be found at the east end of the creek...tell the others."

And so, by bush telegraph, all the animals soon knew where to find water.

"I've got an idea, Katie," said Caroline. "In the King's garden there is a crystal river. It has water that will never run dry. Charlie and Charity have told us about it. I wonder if we could go and bring some back, and at the same time, let's get some of that special fruit called *peace*. But how do we get to the King's Garden?"

Just then Charlie and Charity came by. They told Katie and Caroline what they must do.

"This is what you do," explained Charlie. "Take the key of life, and 1, 2, 3, put on love!"

And that's just what they did. Soon they were there, looking for the special fruit tree...

"Over there," said Caroline. "There it is! I'll go ahead and perch on its branches."

Charlie, Charity and Caroline came running along. They stared at the beautiful tree.

"I'd forgotten how beautiful the fruits were," said Charity. "Nine of them altogether... love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Caroline picked the fruit called *peace*.

"You know," said Charlie, "the wonderful thing about this tree is that no matter how many fruits you pick, new ones just keep on growing. It always has fruit. That's how it should be with us, too. We should always have the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. We should never run out of fruit!"

"Let's take this fruit to the crystal river and see if we can get some water for the animals," said Katie.
"Wait...here's a message from the King... It says, "Do not worry about food or clothes, for I will take care of you". That sure gives me peace to know the Good King is looking after us."

Caroline flew ahead once again, making her way to the Crystal River, while the others followed. Caroline looked around for something to carry water in.

"Over here," called Caroline.
"Look what I've found...It's a melon. We could eat the melon from the inside, then fill up the empty melon with water. Then Katie could tie it to her back with this strong vine so that you she can carry it."



Katie thought that this was a good idea because she was used to carrying a baby on her back, and she felt sure that she could carry a melon. They all started eating the melon. How delicious it tasted. Then they filled the shell with sparkling crystal water. How beautiful the water tasted too.

Then they all helped to tie the melon to Katie's back. "Let's go back to the other animals," said Caroline. "We'll find them at the water hole at the east end of the creek."

And off they went. How happy the animals were to see them. They crowded around with curiosity, wondering why the melon was tied to Katie's back.

"It's water from the crystal river in the King's Garden," explained Charlie.
"And we have a special message from the King," said Charity. "He says that we must not worry about food or clothes, but to have peace inside, knowing that He will



take care of us. That means He'll provide water too. Now everyone, come and have a sip. Don't worry, there's enough for everyone."

So everyone enjoyed a beautiful refreshing drink of water from the Crystal River. Then suddenly Kang Joe's nose twitched. He could feel something in the air.

"Do you smell what I smell?" he asked. "I think there's something in the air...Yes, it smells like rain...It *is* rain. Come on everyone. Let's get wet!"

And so the animals had a wonderful time in the rain. They were happy too knowing that the Good King cared for them, and provided all the things they needed. Charlie and Charity thought about it too.

"If God provides for the birds and animals," said Charity, "how much more will he care for us?"



Activities

1. Why was Katie Koala worried?
2. What is a drought?
3. What's peace? (unjumble the words and write the sentences correctly.)
 - A lamc feeling inside, knowing that God is looking after you.
 - Letting God take all you riwrose.
 - Jesus said, "Do not worry about dofo or tlhcsoe. (Matthew 6:25)
 - If God cares for the idbrs He cares for you.
4. Fill in the missing words
 - a) When we know God we have p_ _ _ _.
 - b) Jesus said not to worry about this: _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
 - c) God always provides the things we _ _ _ _ _.

5. Draw a picture and write a sentence to explain how Caroline helped Katie to get water.
6. Which person in Bible times had the problem of running out of water? (Exodus 17:1-6)
7. How did God provide?

4. The Treasure Hunt

Fruit of the Spirit: patience

Patience is...

- *learning to wait for things, and not getting angry when things are not going as we'd like.*
- *It is sticking to a job and not giving up.*
- *It is waiting for our prayers to be answered.*
- *We need patience with people, patience with jobs, patience with ourselves.*

Today, Charlie and Charity are going to meet some more animal friends from Bunyip Creek. Let's see what Wally Wombat and Katie Koala are doing.

"Hello Katie," said Wally. "Do you know where I can get some fresh roots to eat? You don't? How boring. I'll have to munch on some of this grass until I can find some.

Hello, what's this? A note stuck to a tree! It says, *'Yummy roots to be found, hidden in the ground. All you need is patience.'*

"I wonder what *patience* is," thought Wally. "Do you know what patience is, Katie?"

"No," said Katie.

"O well. I'll just go and have a rest near this tree over here," sighed Wally. Then Katie noticed something.



"Look! The old gum tree has some special fruits hanging on it. Charlie and Charity brought them back from the King's Garden and hung them on the tree! Look...love and joy."

Just then, Charlie and Charity came along.

"Please Charlie and Charity," asked Wally, "could you take me to the special tree so that I can get some fruit?"

"What a good idea," said Charity. "I'm just dying to go again myself." But there's something we have to do first."

"I remember," said Charlie. "It's 1, 2, 3, put on love, and take the key of life. Come on. Let's go."

The children were soon in the garden, and headed straight for the special tree. This time they found a note attached to the tree. It was a message from the King.

'Choose a fruit from this tree, and I'll help you grow more like Me,' read Charity. "That's from the King. He wants us to be more like Him. You know, more loving and kind."

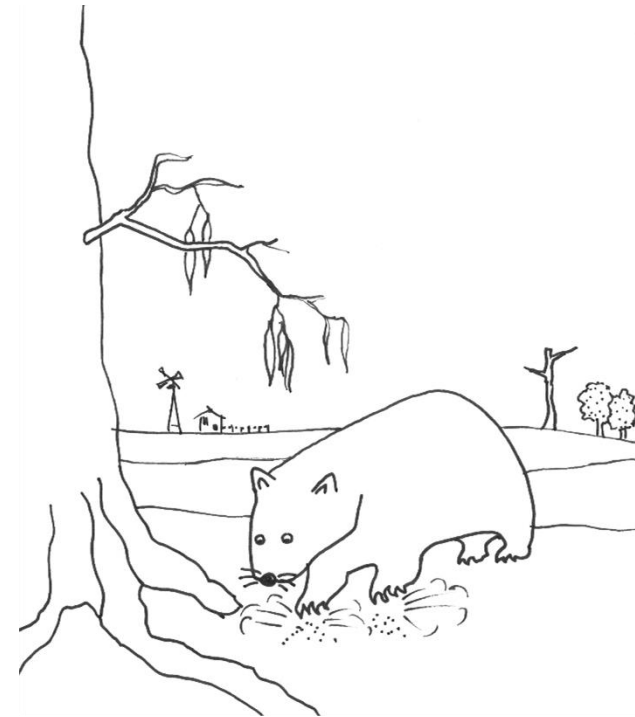
"and more joyful," put in Charlie. "Look here's a fruit that says 'PATIENCE'."

"I wonder," said Wally, "if I pick patience, then perhaps I will understand what patience is....Ah...got it! I remember that note I found. It said, *'yummy roots to be found, hidden in the ground.'*

"Come on Wally," said Charlie, "Let's go on a treasure hunt!"

Wally scratched around. "Scratch, scratch, scratch. Here's one! And I've found another one!"

Charity and Charlie were so pleased that Wally had found his yummy roots.



"Now I know what patience is," said Wally. "When you're looking for something that's hard to find, you must have patience. That means never giving up. Keep trying until you've found what you're looking for. We not only need patience when we're looking for things, but patience when we're waiting for something to happen. And as well, patience when we're doing different jobs...like cleaning out my wombat hole."

"And cleaning my room," said Charity. "You have to keep working at it with patience until it's done."

Now that they had learned patience, the children thought that it was time to go back to Bunyip Creek. In no time they were back at the gum tree where the fruits LOVE and JOY were hanging. The children, along with Wally, added a new fruit, PATIENCE, and soon all the other animals were gathering around to look. Wally told them about needing patience to find the yummy roots. Charlie and Charity told the animals what they had learned about patience too. Can you remember some of the things we need to have patience for?

Activities

1. What kind of animal is a wombat? Describe it.
2. What do wombats like to eat?
3. Why did Wally need patience?
4. Which things would you need to have patience for:
 - Lying in the sun
 - Watching T.V.
 - Reading a thick book
 - Cleaning up a big mess
 - Untying a tangled piece of string
 - Training a dog
5. Write a sentence about a time when you had to show patience.

5.Special help for Diana Dingo

Fruit of the Spirit: kindness and gentleness

Kindness is...

- *treating others with special care*
- *thinking about how other people feel*
- *doing special things for others*

Gentleness is...

- *showing kindness and understanding*
- *considering the feelings of others*
- *treating others with care*

This is a story about two friends of Kanga Joe. Their names are Katie Koala and Caroline Cockatoo. They live at Bunyip Creek, with lots of other animal friends. Not far away live two children, Charity and Charlie Chuckle, who are special friends with all the animals of Bunyip Creek.

Caroline Cockatoo had just flown in from the rainbow, and on her way, spotted an animal friend who needs help. It was Diana Dingo. She had a thorn in her foot and couldn't pull it out.

Now normally Katie and Caroline would be afraid of dingoes, but at Bunyip Creek all the animals had respect for one another, and the dingoes had decided that they could just as well live on insects, slugs and worms rather than killing the larger animals.

"We must help Diana," said Katie. "Where is she?"

"Down by the creek, near the big rock." said Caroline.

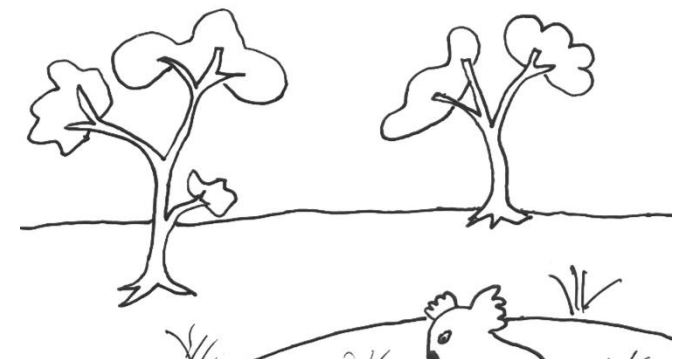
"Come, Caroline. You fly ahead, and I'll come as fast as I can," said Katie.

The two animals made their way to the creek, where they found Diana, lying down and in much pain. She was licking her foot.

"Hello Diana," said Katie. "Would you like some help?"

"Yes I would," said Diana.

Katie found an old paper cup at the edge of the creek and filled it with water. She brought it to Diana and poured the cool water over her foot.



"That feels good," said Diana.

"Now, Caroline", said Katie. "You pull out the thorn with your strong beak."

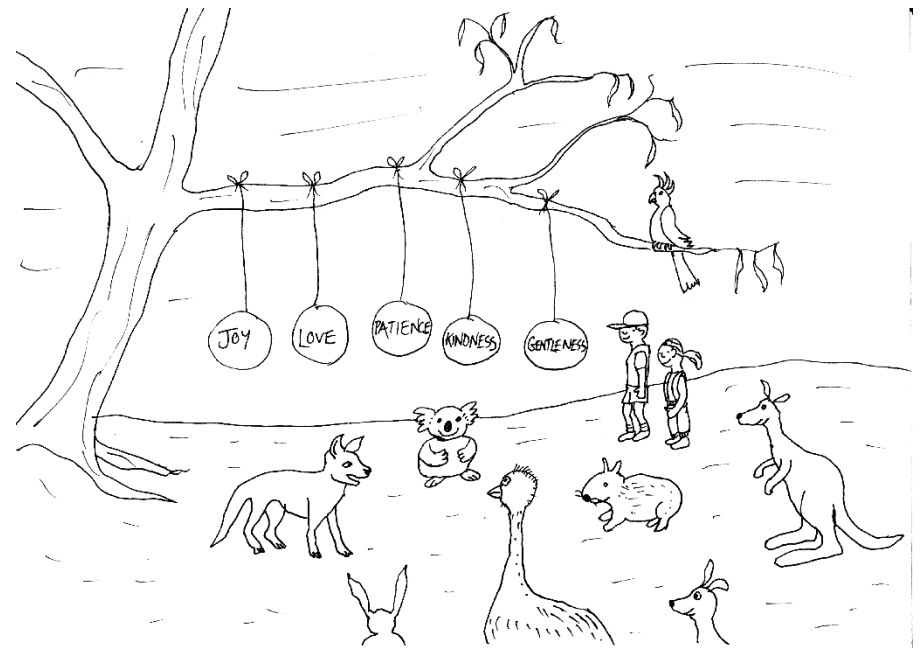
Caroline tugged at the thorn, and in a moment she had it out.

"Now it's my turn to help," said Katie. I'm going to get some eucalyptus oil from these gum leaves and gently put it on your sore paw, so that it gets better quickly."

Katie very gently rubbed on the eucalyptus oil, so as not to hurt Diana.

"I'm so glad we could help you, Diana, said Caroline." All the animals at Bunyip Creek like to help one another whenever we can. Goodbye, and have a nice day."

Now just then Charlie and Charity came along. Can you guess where they had just been? Yes, the King's Garden. They had been to the special fruit tree and today they had brought back the fruit of kindness. They hung the kindness fruit carefully on the gum tree. Katie and Caroline told them all about Diana dingo and the thorn in her foot.



"Do you know what you have just done?" asked Charlie. "You have just taught us all about kindness and gentleness. They are fruits of the spirit, and servants of the King should all have these fruits. Where's Kanga Joe? I think we need to call a meeting of all the animals to tell them about the fruits of kindness and gentleness."

Charlie picked a fresh young gum leaf from a tree. He folded the gum leaf in half and blew into it to make a loud trumpet sound. Soon all the animals were around the gum tree and Charlie and Charity showed the new fruit they had brought back from the King's Garden. Diana told her story, and was so thankful for the kindness shown by Katie and Caroline.

Activities

1. What's kindness? (unjumble the letters of the underlined words and write the sentence correctly.)
 - Treating others with special arce.
 - Thinking about how others efle.
2. What was Diana's problem? (Choose the right answer.)
 - a) She was caught in a trap.
 - b) She had a thorn in her foot
3. How did Katie and Caroline help?

6. The Special Message Delivery

Fruit of the Spirit: faithfulness

Faithfulness is ...

- *sticking up for your friend*
- *staying with someone and not leaving them*
- *being loyal*
- *being a true friend*

Charlie and Charity were enjoying a picnic on the bank of Bunyip Creek, when along came Wally Wombat and his friend Billy Bilby.

"I thought it was about time we made a visit to the King's Garden again," said Charlie. How would you two like to come with us?"

The two animals thought it was a wonderful idea, seeing they had never been to the King's Garden before, and were very curious. Charity explained the special instructions for getting to the garden..."You just take the key of life, and put on love!"

Soon the four of them were standing outside the gates. They noticed a piece of paper stuck between two rocks just near the entrance.

"Hey look, Billy! It's a letter for you," exclaimed Charity.

"Let me see. What does it say?" asked Billy excitedly.

"It's a message from the King. It says that it's nearly Easter and the King has a job for you. He wants you to deliver messages to all the girls and boys," read Charity.

Suddenly Charlie noticed something else.

"Oh no! Look at this sign. It says that we have to go the long way round because of road works."



Now our four friends didn't know it, but the sign had been put there by an enemy of the King. Yes, you guessed it...the snake, who was up to his wicked tricks. The snake had put road work signs just at the entrance to the King's Garden. Of course, there really were no road works. It was just another trick.

"Hello there," said the snake, in a sweet, slippery voice. "I don't think you really want to go through the gate to the King's Garden."

"Why?" asked Charity. "Do you know a better way?"

"Yessss," said the snake. "I do know a better way. Come with me and I will make things easy for you. Don't you know that the King wants to give you lots of hard work to do? He's asked you to deliver all those messages hasn't he? I can give you a much easier way of delivering messages...*my* messages. And as well, I'll give you a special reward. The reward is a ticket to my fun park."

"That sounds great!" said Billy, who started thinking that delivering all those messages might be hard work after all.

"I don't think we should listen to him," said Wally. "You know what the King said. He wants us to deliver **His** messages."

"But we can deliver the King's messages next year," protested Billy. "Why don't we try the easy way for this year?"

"It's a hard decision Billy," said Charlie. "The easy way does sound good...especially with the reward at the end. I'd love to go to a fun park myself, but I have a bad feeling about all this. Why don't we go to the garden and see if the special tree can help us decide what we should do."

Billy decided that Charlie was right. "Good-bye Snake," they said. "Before we agree to deliver messages, we're first going to the King's Garden."

"You'll be sssso ssssorry....all that hard work... and no reward!" hissed the snake.

"Ah...here's the gate," said Charlie. "Get your keys ready everyone!"

At last they were inside the gate. And what a beautiful place it was.

"I think I'd rather be here with the King than go with that snake...even if there is no reward. Let's find that special tree," said Charity. "Over there! Look at all those beautiful fruits...love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I wonder which fruit can help us."

"I'll try this one," said Billy. "It's called faithfulness. Mmmm delicious. Here...have some everyone." Mmm, how good it tasted.



"You know," said Billy, "I've suddenly realised something. If we had followed the snake, and delivered *his* messages, then we would not be showing faithfulness to the Good King. The King is really depending on me to deliver those messages to the girls and boys. I mustn't let him down. Even if serving the King is more difficult, and even if He

doesn't give me a ticket to a fun park, it doesn't matter. Being faithful to Him is the thing that counts."

"That's right Billy," said Charlie. "But you know, there really *is* a reward for serving the King. Already I'm starting to feel His love, joy and peace inside me. It just makes me so happy to be His servant. And I've thought of something else. The Good King has a special reward for all those who serve Him. It's called eternal life."

"What's eternal life, Charlie," asked Wally.

"It means living forever with the King...even after we get really old and die, part of us will live forever here in this garden with the King... and we will have His love, joy and peace forever!" replied Charlie.

"Come on everyone!" said Billy. "Let's go to the King right away and get those messages. The King is depending on me!"

And that's just what they did. Billy collected the King's messages and the four of them returned to Bunyip Creek, each carrying a sack of messages. That Easter, all the girls and boys of Bunyip Creek received a special message from the King, delivered while they were sleeping, by Billy Bilby. Maybe you know the special message already. It's found in John 3:16... *For God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son, so that whoever believed in Him should not die, but have eternal life."*



Activities

1. Faithfulness is...

- sticking up for your friend.
- Not leaving your friend.

Which friends were faithful to Billy?

2. To be faithful, which would you choose?

- a) You have to choose between going to your best friend's birthday party, or going to a really good movie with some other friends?
- b) You have to choose between keeping your promise to help Dad on the weekend or playing soccer with your friends.

3. What did the snake try and get the children to do?

4. What did the children do?

7. The Fabulous Sweets

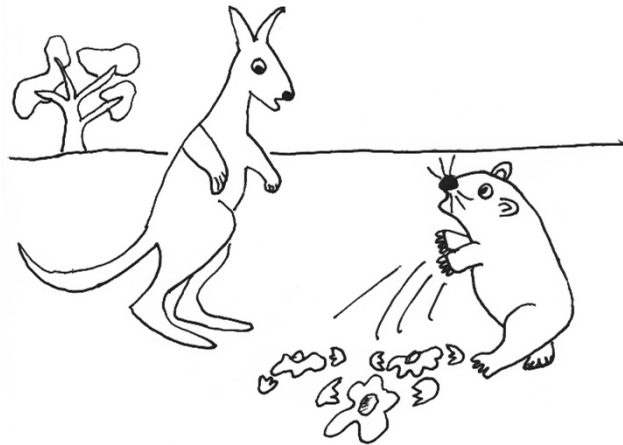
Fruit of the Spirit: goodness

Goodness is...

- *obeying God's word*
- *doing the right thing*

Kanga Joe was just practicing his balancing. Sometimes Emily Emu gave him some of her eggs for juggling. Kanga liked to entertain the other animals with a little show now and again, and his assistant was Wally Wallaby.

"You're such a faithful friend, Wally." said Kanga Joe. "I can always depend on you. Come on. Let's practise our routine. Let's try the egg-balancing act again..."



"O no, Wally! "You've dropped the eggs and smashed them!" exclaimed Kanga Joe.

"Sorry Kanga," said Wally. "I didn't mean to."

"It's alright, Wally," said Kanga Joe, "I'm not going to lose my temper because I've just been to the King's Garden and picked some special fruit. Have a look at this!

G-O-O-D-N-E-S-S. And do you know what I learnt from the King's garden? Goodness is just doing the right thing. That's what the Good King wants. He wants us to be good just as He is. He also wants us to have self-control. That means not losing my temper, and not being greedy. Why don't we go and find Charlie and Charity and we'll all go to the King's Garden together!"

Wally and Kanga Joe soon found the children.

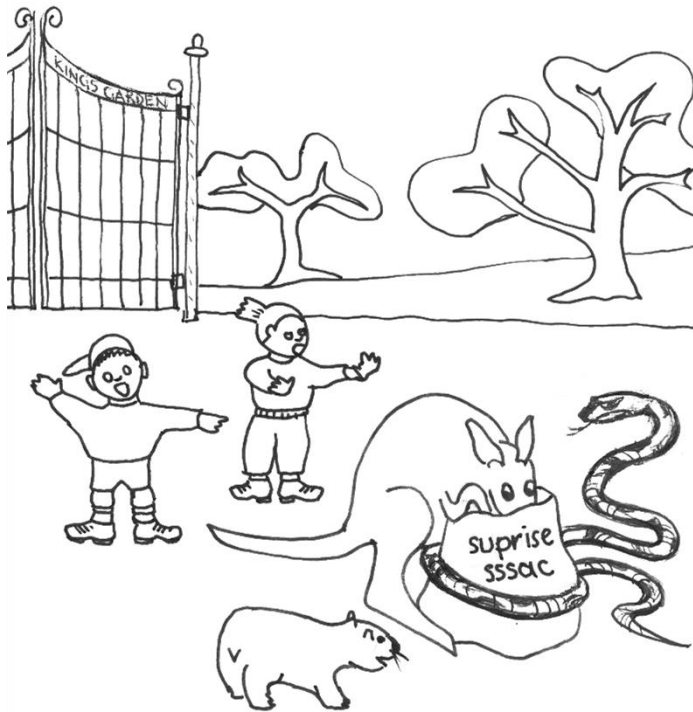
"Do you remember what to do to get there?" asked Charlie.

"Yes," said Kanga Joe. "Take the key of life, and 1, 2 ,3, Put on love!"

Soon they were at the gates. But look! There was someone new.

"I haven't seen him before," said Charlie. "It looks like a snake. Excuse me sir. Are you a snake?"

"Y..e..ssssss. I sssupposse I am," said the snake. "I'm here to tell you that you don't need to go to this garden. There's a much better garden. You can do whatever you like there. Look in my fabulouss ssurprisse ssac. I'll show you some of the goodies that are there. Put your hand in and sssee what you can find. Take whatever you want."



"OK. I love surprises," said Kanga Joe, who was very keen to put his paw into the sack. "Let's see...I'll feel around a bit. Ah...here's something interesting...It's a bag of lollies, with a sign on it..."

"Eat these sweets, so nice and yummy, All you can to fill your tummy. No need to be good and follow the rule Eating sweets is really cool."

"Don't listen to him, Kanga Joe," said Charity. "Don't you remember what the King taught us about self-control?"

"But I love lollies," said Kanga Joe.

"Well," said the snake, "Come with me, and I will give you lollies for FREE!"

"You three go to the King's Garden," said Kanga Joe. "I'm going to get the lollies."

"But Kanga! You can't go with the snake!" exclaimed Charity.

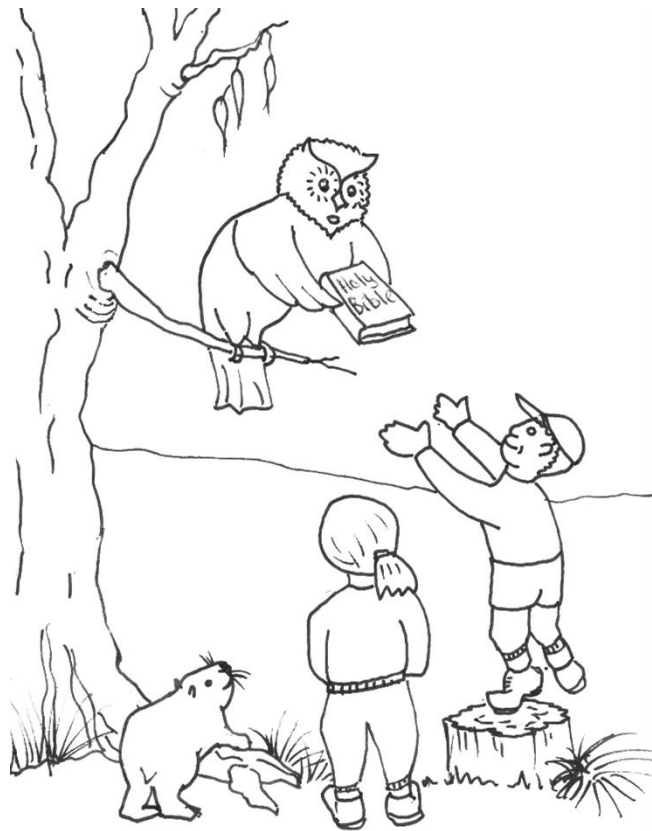
But in a moment he was gone.

"We'll have to rescue him," said Charlie. "Have you two got any ideas?"

"We could go to the Garden and ask the wise old owl what to do," thought Charity."

And that's just what they did. The two children and Wally explained their problem to the owl.

"Who..who-oo," said the owl. "Take this guide book with you and it will show you what to do."



The three thanked the owl, and sat down to take a good look at the book. It said, "The King's Guide Book, the Bible." They searched through the pages, looking for something to help Kanga Joe.

"Ah, here we are," said Charity... "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22"

"Goodness," thought Charlie aloud... "Following the snake is not good at all. And eating all those lollies is not having self-control. That's what kanga Joe needs. He needs the fruits of goodness and self-control. Let's go and pick these fruits and take them to Kanga Joe!"

They knew where to find the special fruit tree, and they soon had the fruits.

"Now we've got the fruits," said Charlie, "we've got to find Kanga Joe. Look! Here's a trail of lollies. Let's follow it."

Along here, past the trees, and over there I can see a cave. Look. There's a sign that says "Snake's Hollow. Free lollies."

"I'm not going in there," said Charity.

"May be we can call Kanga and he might hear us," suggested Charlie.

"Kanga, Kanga," they called. "We've got something for you....fruits from the King's Garden."



Kanga's voice came from inside the hollow: "Is that you Charlie and Charity and Wally? OOOOh....help me! I've got a tummy ache... and a toothache. I should have gone with you in the first place. Thank you for coming to save me from the wicked snake. You're such good friends."

Now fortunately the snake was having a sleep, so Kanga crept past the old fellow very quietly. The children gave Kanga the fruit from the King's Garden. He ate it at once, and noticed how delicious it tasted...even better than the lollies. And do you know, that almost immediately his toothache started to get better, and so did his tummy ache!

"Come on," said Charlie. "Let's get out of here before the snake finds us."

"I sure have learned a lot about goodness and self-control today," said Kanga Joe.

"Yes, but you did learn the hard way," said Charity. "It's much better to obey the King in the first place and follow the advice in His book."

Kanga Joe agreed.

"If I had gone straight through the gate to the King's Garden, and not followed the snake, I wouldn't have been in so much trouble."

"That's right, Kanga," said Charity. "When we follow the King's son, Jesus, we belong to Him, just like sheep belong to the shepherd. He helps us to have goodness in our lives, as we become more like Him."



Activities

1. What is goodness? Fill in the missing letters
O _ _ _ ing God's w _ _ _.

D _ ing the r _ _ _ _ thing.

2. WWJD? (What would Jesus do?)
Match up the words with their correct endings.

- Obey your things neat and tidy
- Keep your best
- Speak your mum and dad
- Try others
- Help words that are kind and true

3. Who should we obey? (Choose the best answers)

- a) snakes b)The Bible c) parents
d)strangers e)T.V. commercials f)God

8. The Most Delicious Red Apples

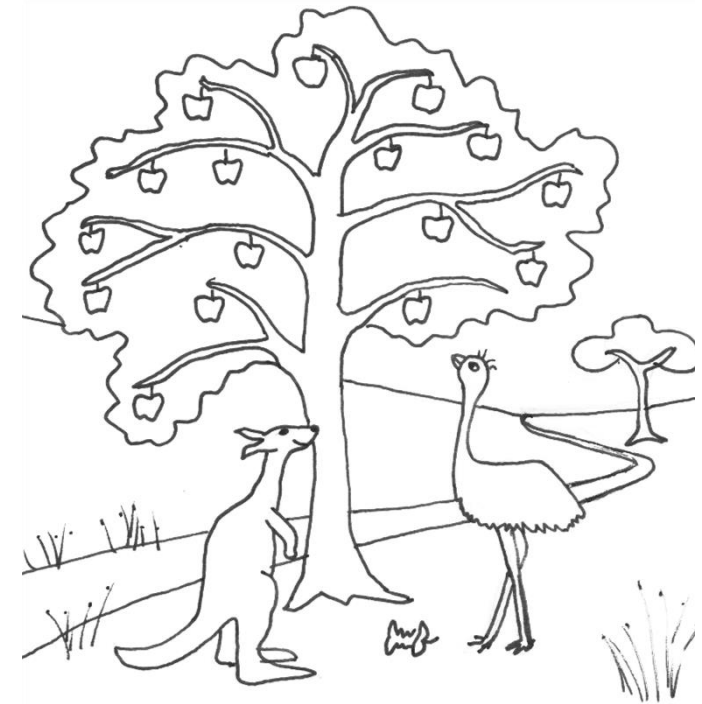
Fruit of the Spirit: self-control

Self-control is ...

- *not losing your temper*
- *knowing when to stop*
- *not being greedy*
- *not giving in to temptation*

Down by Bunyip Creek, growing on the bank was an apple tree. Now this apple tree hadn't been planted by anyone. In fact it may have been planted by Caroline cockatoo, who had the habit of eating apples all the way down to the seeds, and then taking out the seeds, which to her, were the most delicious part. It could have been that Caroline was flying over Bunyip Creek one year with a mouthful of seeds, when one dropped out of her mouth and fell into some soft soil on the creek bank. Caroline doesn't remember this time exactly, but that is how the animals think the tree got there. Anyway, the tree grew the most delicious small, red apples, which were shared by all the members of Bunyip Creek, including Charlie and Charity.

It was a beautiful day at Bunyip Creek. The sun was warm, and all the animals were happy. Emily Emu was out for a morning walk, when she came across a whole tree of ripe red apples! Now Emily just loved apples. She reached out her beak and picked one. Mmm...delicious! Soon she was joined by William Wallaby, who also loved apples.



"I could eat at least 20." said Emily. "How about you, William?"

"Too many, too many!" said William.

Just then Charlie and Charity came along. Seeing all those apples made them think of fruit...and thinking of fruit, they both had the same idea.

"Why don't we go to the King's Garden!" said Charity. "We've got our key of life. All we have to do is to put on love. Come on, let's go!"

Just inside the gate, the children saw an apple tree. They had not seen it before. It looked just like the one back at Bunyip Creek, and it was laden with ripe red apples. The children were starting to feel hungry now. They reached out and picked one each. The apples were delicious...even better than the ones at Bunyip Creek. They wanted to stay and eat apples forever, but then remembered why they had come.

The children knew their way very well now to the special tree. They read the names of all the different fruits...love, joy peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

"I wonder what self-control is?" said Charlie.

"I think I know," said Charity. "Now that I'm here, I seem to understand things so much better.

Self-control is something the King wants us to have. It means not being greedy or selfish. You see, eating lots and lots apples at once would be very greedy of

me, and if we were back at Bunyip Creek, it would also be selfish to eat so many apples because there wouldn't be many left for the other animals."

"I've just had another thought," said Charlie. Having self-control can also be controlling your anger. You know, when you feel so angry that you want to hit someone, or even bash the door down. That's not what the King wants. He wants us to think of Him, and think kind thoughts."

Why don't we go back to Bunyip Creek and show this fruit to Emily and William. I think it will help them."

So off they went, with their special fruit. Back at Bunyip Creek they found Emily Emu and William Wallaby still at the apple tree.

"I hope Emily hasn't eaten all the apples," thought Charity. "We've been away for ages."

But there hadn't been time for Emily to eat too many apples, because the children had really only been gone a few seconds in Bunyip Creek time.

The children showed Emily and William the fruit of self-control, and hung it up on the old gum tree. Charity explained what self-control actually meant. Do

you think you could help her explain it to Emily? Emily got the idea immediately.

"I like shiny brass buttons," she said, "but I know I must have self-control, and try not to pick them off people's jackets...And I have to remember not to pick sandwiches out of people's hands when they're having a picnic."

"And I have to remember not to eat too much sugary food that rots my teeth. I also have to have self-control with my temper. That means, when I feel angry at someone, I must still speak kindly to them," said Charlie.

"That's right," said Charity. "It's because of self-control that all the animals in Bunyip Creek are kind to each other. Everyone thinks about putting others first, and shares special things like apples."

Activities:

1. Self-control with food and things:

- a) Know when to s _ _ p.
- b) No need for gr _ _ _d.

2. Self-control with your temper:

- a) Don't l o _ e your temper!
- b) You might h _ _ t someone!

3. Self-control in what you do and say:

- a) Don't be t e _ _ t ed. (Luke 11:4)
- b) When you kn _ _ it's wrong, don't d _ it!

4. Read Proverbs 16:23 and write the Bible verse:

5. More about food... Write this and finish the last sentence:

Too many sugary foods will rot your teeth.
Too much food colouring will make you sick,

BUT...

Food from the garden, like fruits and vegetables, will keep you