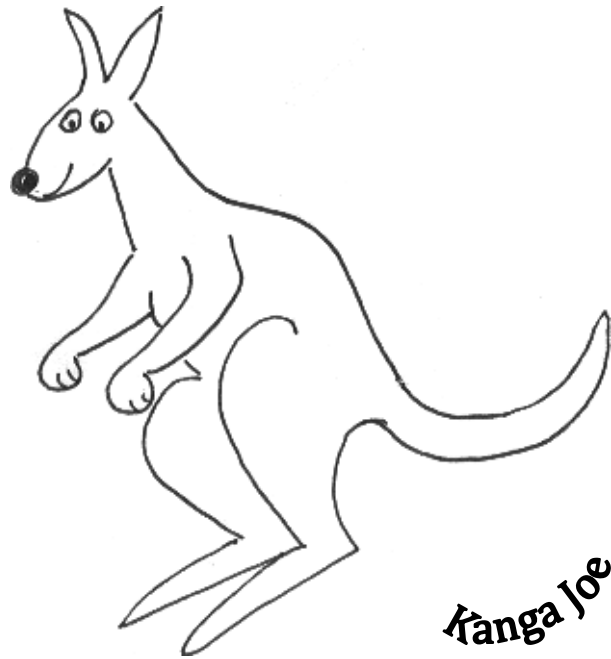


Kanga Joe

Part 1



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A series of eight stories about the Fruit of the Spirit

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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.

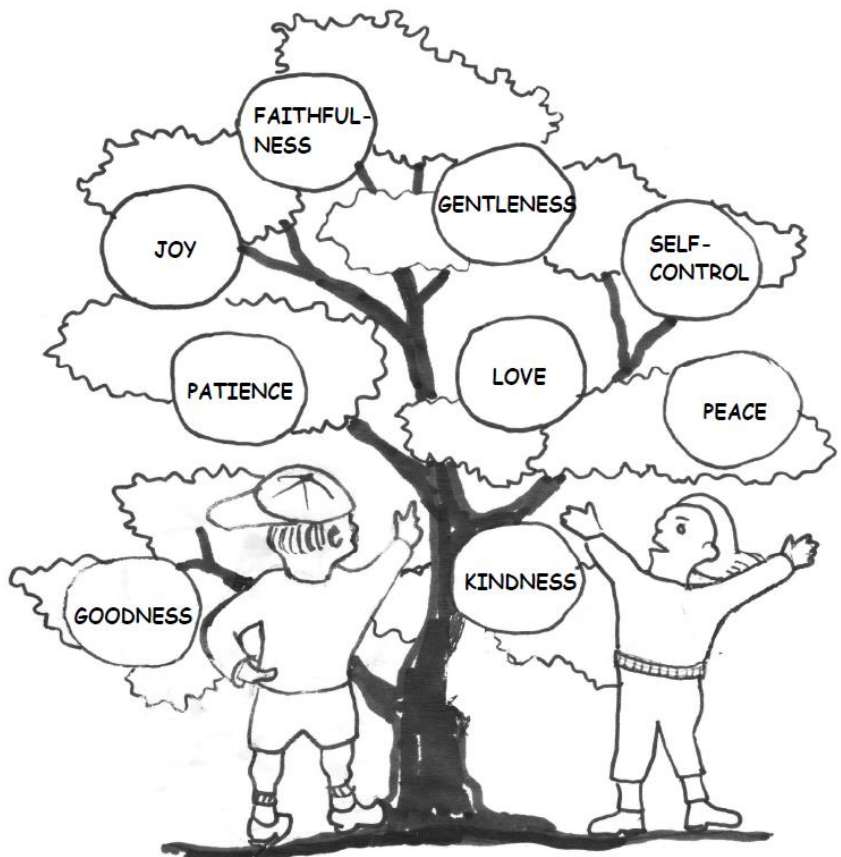
That's because of the King's love. All the creatures in the garden know only love, and have no fear. I'm sure I could pick up this baby tiger..."

"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."



"Look! Here's my name!" said Charity...

"L-O-V-E...that's the meaning of my name. Charity means love!"

"But there are other fruits too," noticed Charlie,
"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

"Look!" said Charity. "Here's a notice from the King.
It's rolled up in this special scroll."

"Open it, Charity!" said Charlie.

Charity read the message: *'Choose a fruit from this
tree,
and I will help you grow more like Me.'* signed, *The
King.*

Charlie thought for a minute. "I think that means
that the King wants us to have these fruits in our
lives...so that we become... more loving, more
joyful, more peaceful, more patient, kind and good,
more faithful, gentle, and having self-control. Which
fruit are you going to choose, Charity?"

"I'm going to choose love, because that's my
name," she said excitedly.

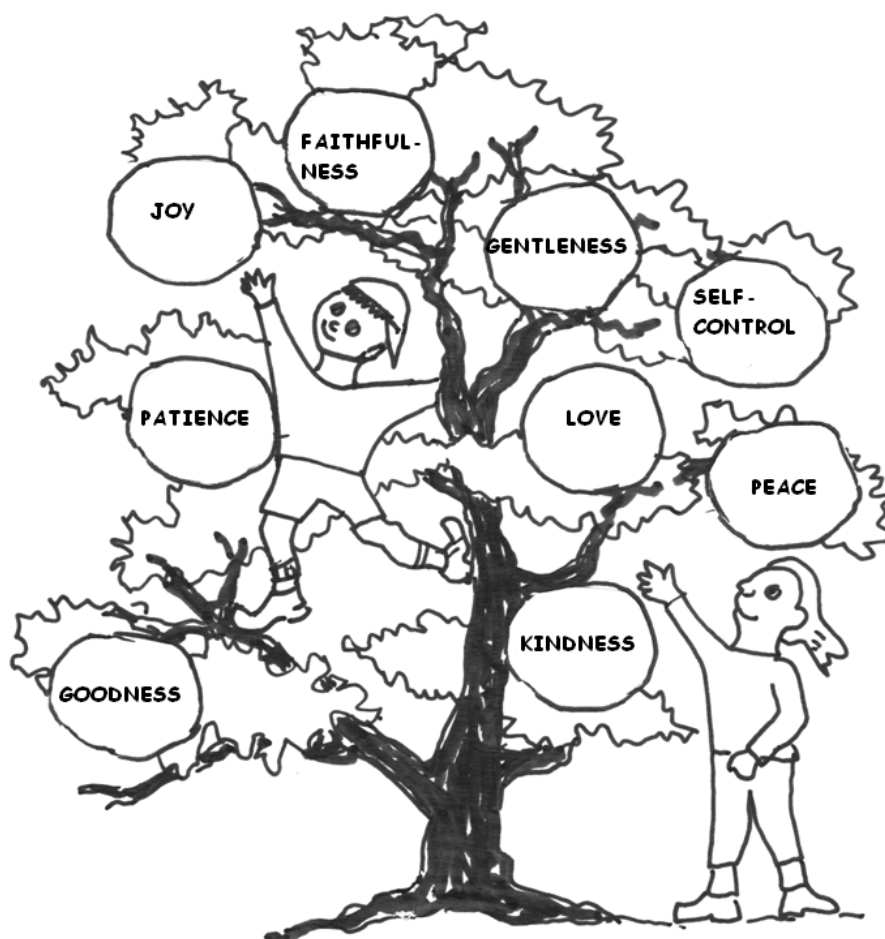
"So it is!" said Charlie. "If you choose this fruit, then
the King will expect you to be more loving and kind
to others, and to love Him as well of course."

"Which fruit are you going to choose?" asked
Charity.

"I'm going to choose joy," said Charlie, "because making people happy is what I do best! Joy is something we share with others. When we follow the King we have joy inside, even when things don't turn out as we would like them to."

"Yes...just like the time you tried to balance real eggs on your head and they fell and broke!" said Charity.

"Well, I can't get it right all the time." said Charlie. "Anyway, I know that if I choose joy, I'm going to be joyful even when things are not going my way. Look...here comes a beautiful butterfly. Look at all those colours. That makes me feel JOYFUL!"



The two children suddenly thought about Bunyip Creek. It seemed that they had been away for a long time. Maybe Mum would be wondering where they were. And then they thought about all their animal friends from the Australian bush. How they would love to hear of the new animals they had met in the King's Garden.

"Come on," said Charlie. "I think it's time to go. But we must come back here very soon!"

The children took their precious fruits, love and joy, and before you could say 1, 2, 3, they were back at Bunyip Creek.

"Look at the sun!" said Charity. "It's in the same position as when we left. We've really taken no time at all in the King's Garden. It was as if time stood still."

"That's good," said Charlie. "It would have been hard to explain to Mum where we'd been. Look. Here comes Kanga Joe. Let's tell him all about it."

So that's what they did. They told Kanga Joe of their wonderful adventure in the King's Garden, and showed him the special fruit. The children hung their fruits carefully on a gum tree, and all the other animals came to have a look. Charlie and Charity explained to the animals that these fruits were not for eating, but to help us be more loving and joyful, just as servants of the King should be.

The Birthday Party

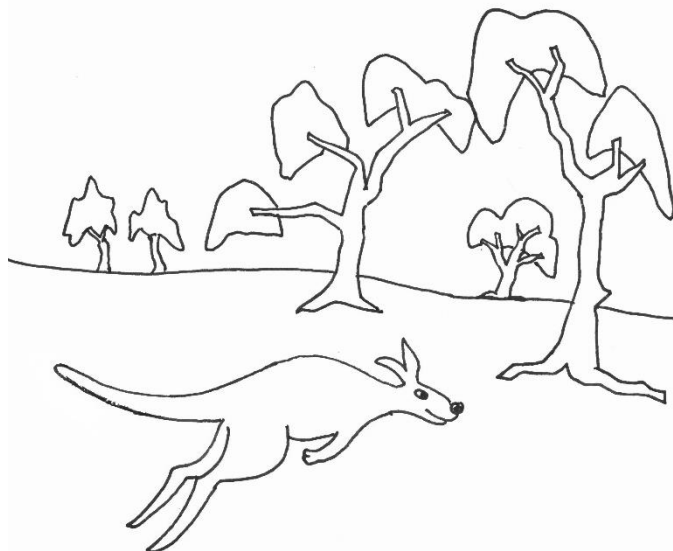
Fruit of the Spirit: joy

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.

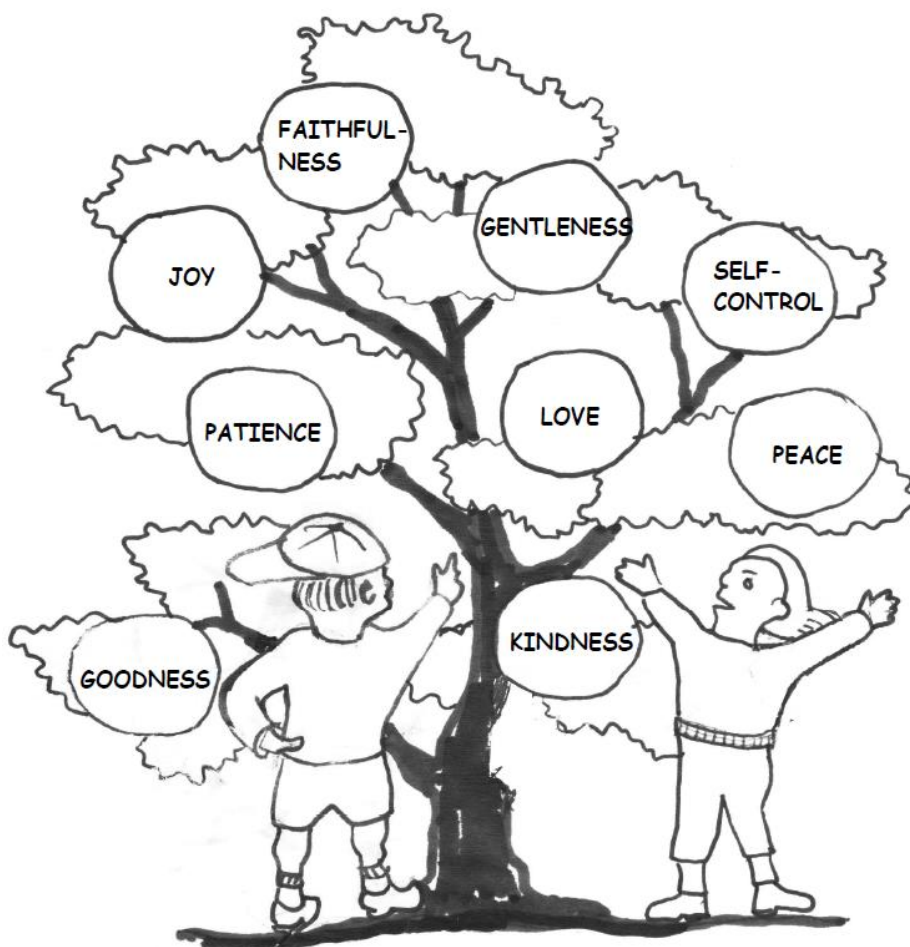
"What a good idea," said Charlie. "Let's pick a big basket of fruit."

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?"

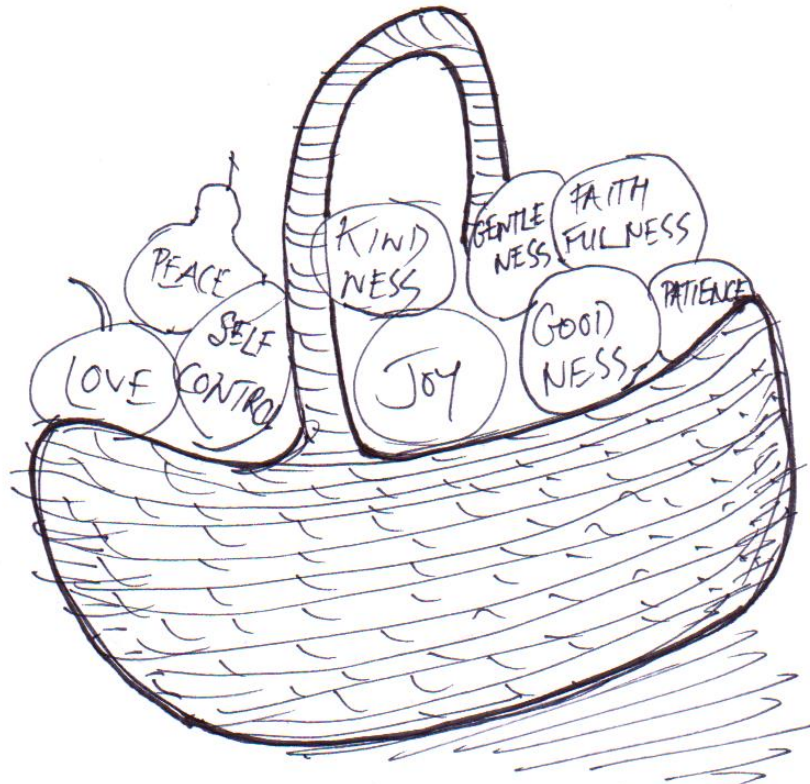
"Excellent idea," said Charity. So off they went, taking their key of life and putting on love.

Soon they were there.

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



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!"



"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."

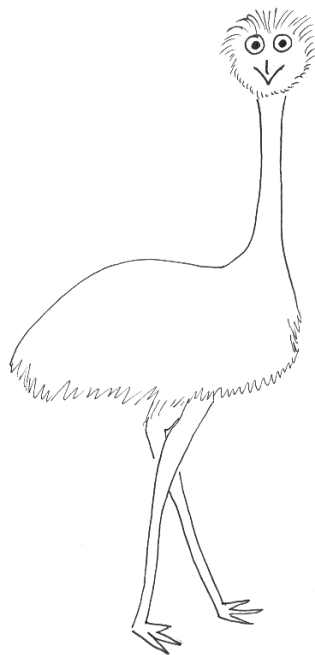
"That's right," thought Charlie. We can give Mum and Dad joy by doing the things we are asked to do. Being kind and thoughtful is showing joy."

"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.



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?"



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."

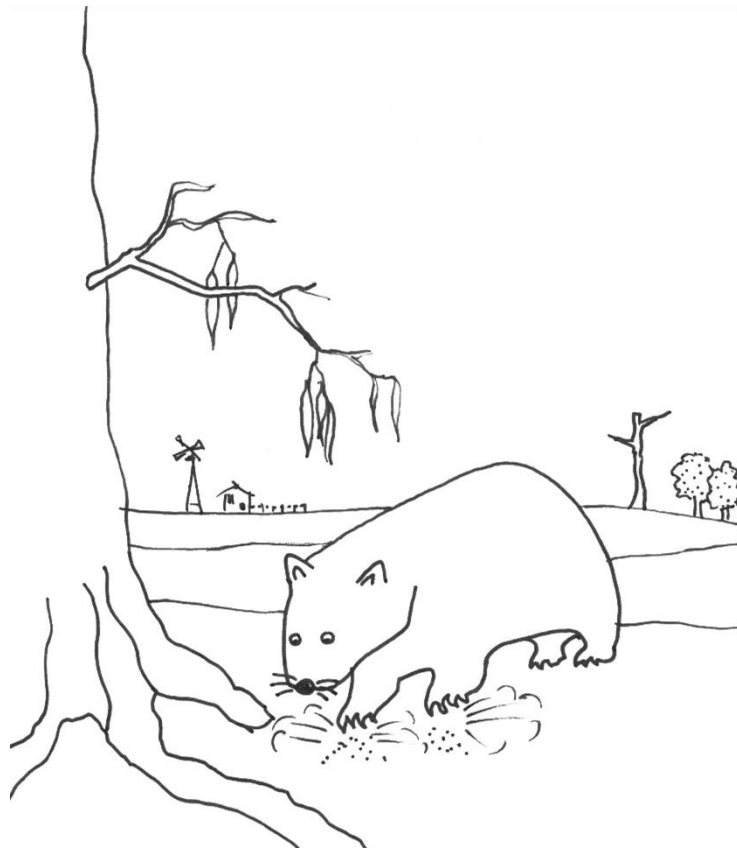
"and more joyful," put in Charlie. "Look here's a fruit that says 'PATIENCE'."

"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?

