

# ***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..."

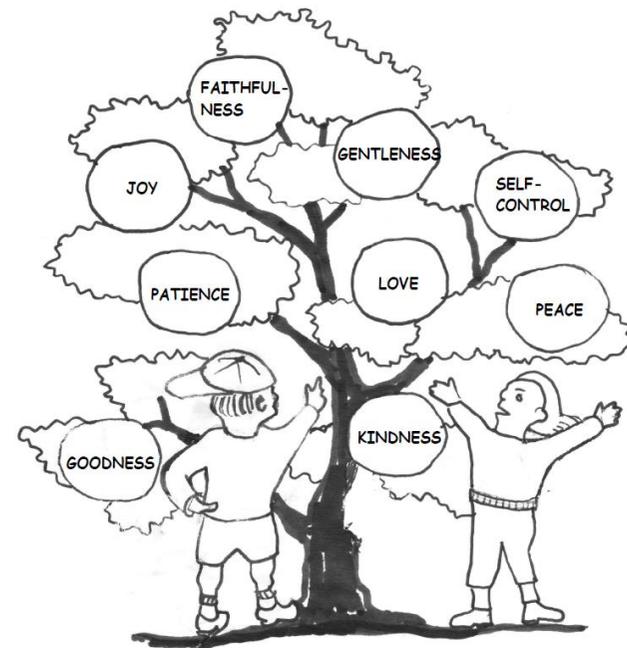


"And I'll stroke the mother tiger," said Charlie, having always wanted to pat a tiger.

"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."



# ***The Birthday Party***

## Fruit of the Spirit: joy

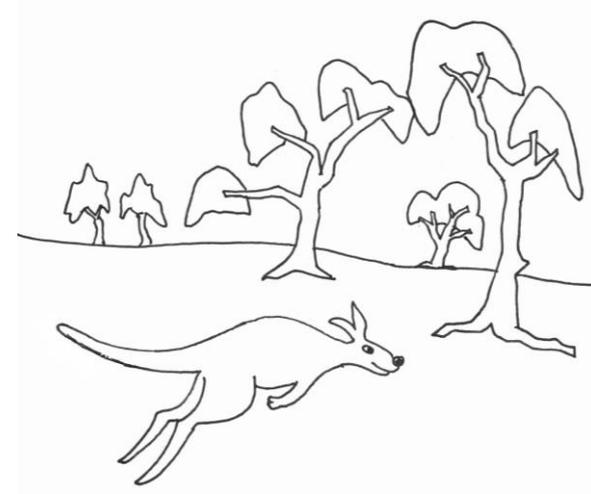
### ***Joy is ...***

- *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.

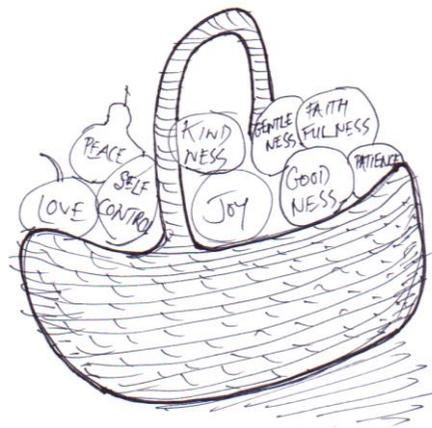
Charity and Charlie had not been forgotten. They were invited too. They were busy deciding what to put in their picnic basket.

"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.

