

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."

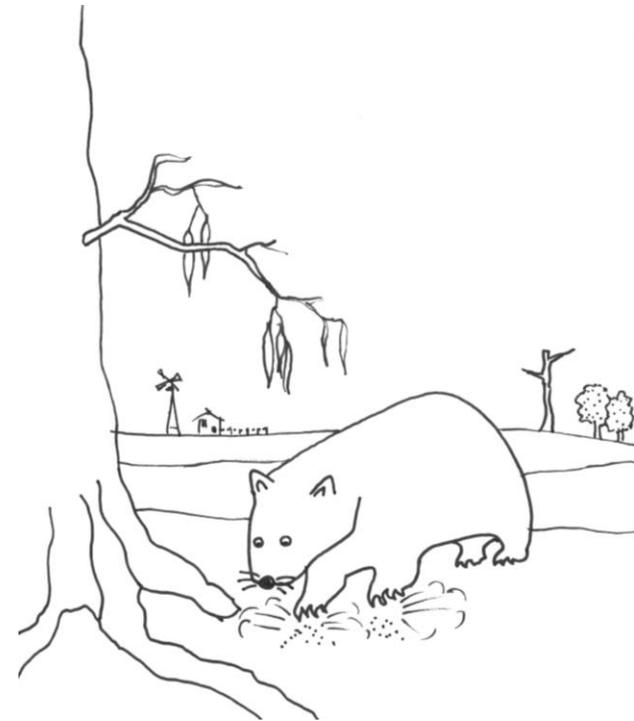
"and more joyful," put in Charlie. "Look here's a fruit that says 'PATIENCE'."

"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!"

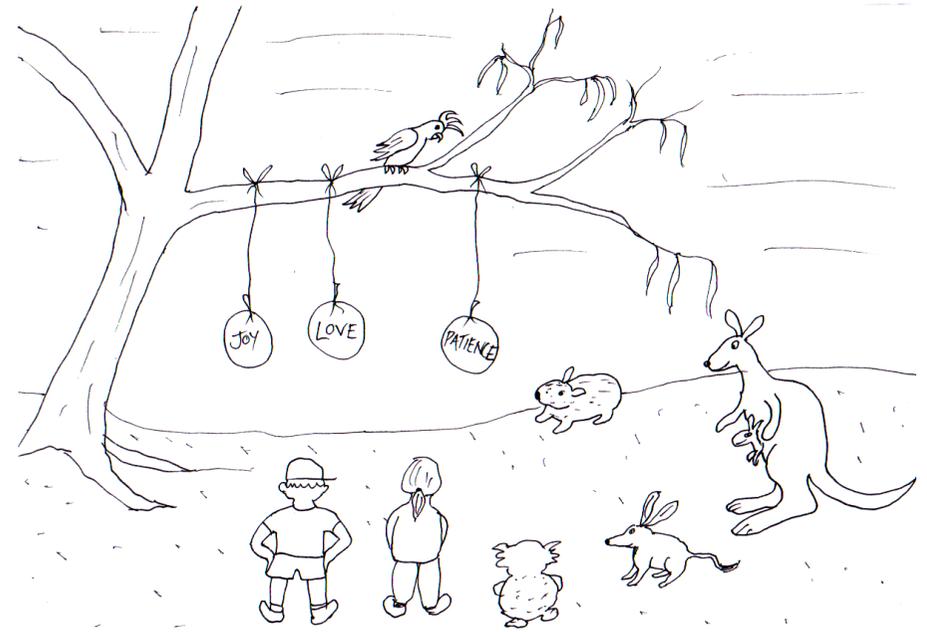
Charity and Charlie were so pleased that Wally had found his yummy roots.



"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?



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?"

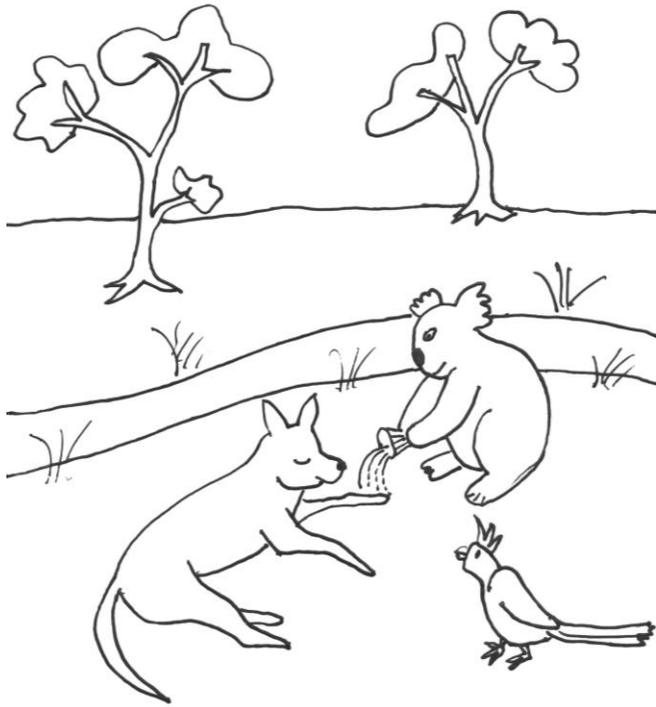
"Down by the creek, near the big rock." said Caroline.

"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."

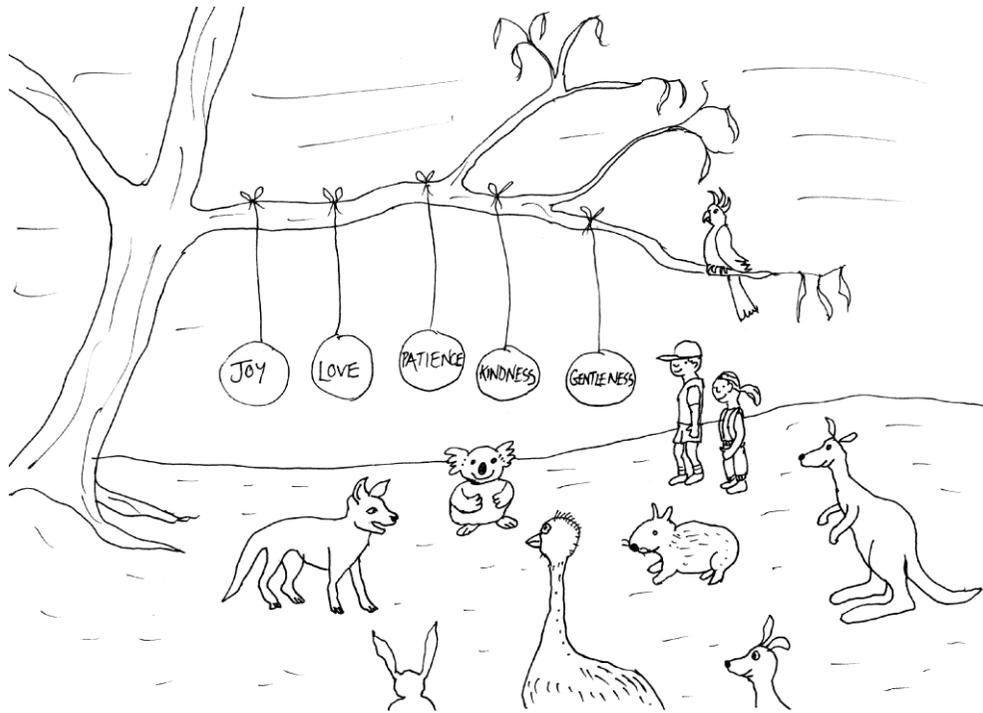
Caroline tugged at the thorn, and in a moment she had it out.

"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.

