

Kanga Joe and Co.

Eight stories for teaching children about the Fruit of the Spirit

Use these sessions on the Fruit of the Spirit for children's church, Sunday School, children's clubs, Christian schools, home school or home devotions.

Visual aids

To help you tell the story, you can use the Australian animal finger puppets provided on pages 47-50. y.

Songs

Can be found on www.beaconmedia.com.au

See *Primary Music*.

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Session 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 bush near Bunyip Creek. There's Kanga Joe, Willy Wallaby, Emily Emu, Katie Koala, Billy Bilby, Caroline Cockatoo, Mrs. Possum, Wally Wombat and Diana Dingo. Charity and Charlie have made the animals of Bunyip Creek their special friends.

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. The bible tells us in Colossians 3:14, 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.

"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 salvation.

"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. 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."

And 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.

Teaching notes for Story 1: LOVE

The King's Garden is like the Garden of Eden, which God made to be perfect. The King of course, is God our Heavenly Father. Can you imagine a lion and a lamb lying peacefully together in the same field? It's hard to imagine, but that is how it was in God's perfect creation, the Garden of Eden. However, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, things were no longer perfect. The King's Garden is also like Heaven, a place that God has made for those who love Him. Heaven will be like the Garden of Eden, once again things will be perfect. Animals will live in peace with one another. There will be no killing, no evil, no sickness and no sadness.

Can you imagine a world where people never fight each other?...where people are never selfish or greedy? Can you imagine a world where there are no droughts or floods or earthquakes?...where there are no hungry children?...where the weather is always perfect and the plants are always beautifully green? This is the way God first made it, in the Garden of Eden.

Because our world has been spoiled, God has sent Someone to help us. That person is Jesus. When Jesus is our friend, He helps us do what's right. Having Jesus as a friend is being a Christian. Christians can show love and kindness, and help people around us to know God's love. Christians are like lights to brighten up a world that's not always perfect.

Quiz

Q. What is another name for LOVE?

A. *Another name for love is charity.*

Q. What does it mean to have the fruit of love?

A. *We show love and kindness to others, we help others, and share with others.*

Q. What is the meaning of JOY?

A. *Having joy means being cheerful even when things are not going the way we want them to.*

Q. What are some of the other fruits of the Spirit?

A. *The 9 fruits of the Spirit are found in the Bible in Galatians 5:2.*

Craft activity

Make a large tree, with branches on it. You can either put some real branches in a pot, or make a painting of a tree. Now place the fruits of the spirit on the tree. For each session, you can pick the fruits that you have been learning about.

Game

Fruit of the Spirit Snap

Here's what you do... Get someone to help you cut out 18 cards, all the same size, about the size of playing cards.

Now draw different fruits on the cards, in pairs. For example, two apples on two different cards, two bananas on two different cards and so on, until you have 9 different pairs of fruit.

Now write names on the fruits. For the two apples, you could write LOVE and for the two bananas, write JOY, and so on, until you have listed the 9 fruits of the spirit. To help you with the names, read about the fruits from the bible, from Galatians 5: 22.

Now you have a fruit of the Spirit card game. You can play snap or fish or concentration, or any card game that you play in pairs!

Songs

Wide Wide as the Ocean (Sing a Joyful Song)

Down in my Heart (Couldn't Be Finer)

Session 2: *The birthday party*

Fruit of the Spirit: **joy**

Joy is ...

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

Today is a really special day. Today is Emily Emu's birthday. Emily doesn't know it's 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 Salvation 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 Peanut 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.

Teaching notes for Story 2: JOY

When we are Christians we have the joy of Jesus in our hearts, because we know that He is looking after us and loves us very much. In the bible times, Jesus gave away joy to people by telling them how they could come to know God our heavenly Father. Jesus also did special things for people. He gave people joy by healing them and forgiving their sin.

Jesus can still help people in special ways today. He can still heal people who are sick. Before Jesus went back to heaven to be with His Father again, He gave His followers special power to heal people through God's power. His followers, Peter and John, were at the temple one day, when they were stopped by a man who couldn't walk. His legs were hurt. In fact he had been like that for years and years. The poor man asked Peter and John if they had money to give him. Peter said, "We don't have any money for you, but I'll give you something else. I command you in the name of Jesus Christ, walk! The man reached out to hold Peter's hand. Peter pulled the man to his feet. The man felt a strong power go through his whole body. He suddenly found that he could walk! He started not only walking, but leaping around and praising God, he was so full of joy. (Acts 3)

God is a powerful God who can help us all today in very special ways. He can give you and your family special joy.

Some fruit riddles

Q. Is a tomato a fruit or a vegetable?

A. *A fruit. In fact a tomato is a berry because it has little seeds inside just like a berry.*

Q. What kind of a fruit is a banana?

A. *A banana is a herb...not like parsley that Mum puts in the omelette, but it is a kind of herb.*

Q. Which fruit of the Spirit am I? I like to do things to make others happy.

A. *Joy*

Q. How many fruits of the Spirit are there, and what are their names?

A. *There are 9 fruits of the Spirit... love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

Knock knock ...*Who's there?*

Berry... *Berry who?*

Berry nice thank you.

Something to make

J-O-Y wall hanging

Cut out 3 cardboard circles. Write in each one, a letter: J, O, and Y. Now put them in order downwards and join them with some coloured ribbon glued to the back. Put a curtain ring on the top, and you have a J-O-Y wall hanging to hang on your wall or your door. Also, try and make a joy surprise for someone. It could be a card or a picture, or anything you can make yourself.

Make a card or gift for someone

Doing special things for others is giving away joy. Think of something special you can do for someone today...something that would give them joy. Maybe you could make a special card or gift, or even throw them a party! Maybe you could do some jobs for Mum or Dad without being asked.

Make a card in the shape of a heart. Make it a card that opens up, like a heart-shaped birthday card. On the front of the card, write someone's name.

Decorate it in beautiful coloured letters. On the inside, write some kind words. You could say...God loves you and you are very special to Him. Then give the card to that person. It's a way of giving them joy. Here are some songs to listen to while you are finding the things you need.

Songs

Thank you for all the good things (Couldn't Be Finer)

God is Wonderful (Couldn't Be Finer)

Session 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 the 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 Salvation, 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.

The animals were so happy 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?"

Teaching notes for Story 3: PEACE

Matthew 6:26

Look at the birds. They do not collect food and store it. But God your Heavenly Father cares for them. God loves you much more than the birds. How much more will he care for you!

Philippians 4:19

God will supply all your needs> He can do this because He is in charge of all the riches.

A true story – The baby birds

Everyone was coming to listen to Jesus...young men, old men, women and children all gathered to hear Jesus tell a story. Jesus told stories about things the people knew well. He told stories about sheep and shepherd, about farms and farmers. People sat on the grass ready to listen. So many people had gathered that Jesus decided to go up the side of the mountain a little, so that people could hear him better. He also wanted to talk about some of the beautiful plants and animals that were on that mountainside.

Jesus began. "Look at the birds," he said. Do they have barns or haystacks where they keep their food? No. God feeds them."

"And look at these wild flowers about us. They do not work to make clothes to wear. But God dresses them in beautiful clothes. Did you know that you are more important than the birds? You are more important than the flowers. If God takes care of them, he will take care of you."

Not too long ago, a little boy learned about these words of Jesus in a very real way. This is a true story that happened only a few years ago.

In the roof of Grandma's house was a nest. A mother bird had built the nest, high up, away from danger. In the nest were four blue eggs. Mother bird sat on the eggs. She waited and waited. At last, four chirping baby birds hatched out of the eggs. Now mother bird often stayed away from the nest to collect food for her babies. She would bring worms back to the nest and pop them into the little open beaks.

One day, Tim came to visit Grandma. Tim was sometimes naughty. Today he felt like being very naughty. Tim saw the nest in the roof. Tim also saw a long, long stick resting against the shed wall.

"I know what I'll do," he thought. "I'll get that long, long stick and give the nest a poke."

Tim held the end of the stick very carefully.

"Yes, I can reach it," he said.

He gave the nest a little poke. Then a bigger one. Down, down, down came the nest.

"Cheep, cheep, cheep," went the little birds.

Tim couldn't bear to look at the nest, now on the ground. He ran away crying. He knew he had been very naughty.

"What's the matter, Tim?" asked Grandma. "Why are you crying?" "It's the baby birds," cried Tim. "They've fallen from the roof." "How did they fall?" asked Grandma.

Tim just kept crying. Grandma went to have a look at the birds and saw the stick nearby.

"Did you knock the birds down with that stick, Tim?" asked Grandma. Tim could not tell a lie.

"I did," he said, "and now all the baby birds will be dead." "Come and have a look, Tim," said Grandma.

Tim counted the birds1..2..3..4., and each bird was cheeping loudly.

"God has protected them all," said Grandma. "Do you know that God cares for birds and knows about it when they fall from their nest? Just think about how much He loves us. He knows exactly how many hairs are on your head, Tim," said Grandma.

"I'm so glad that the babies are still alive," said Tim. "But now their nest is ruined."

Grandma saw an old flower-pot in the garden shed.

"Why don't we make a little nest from this, Tim? We'll put it on the roof, exactly where the old nest was."

Tim and Grandma set to work, making a warm nest from straw and cotton wool. They carefully placed the birds in the new nest and put it gently in position on the roof.

"I don't think the mother will come back to feed the babies now that she knows humans have touched the nest," said Tim sadly.

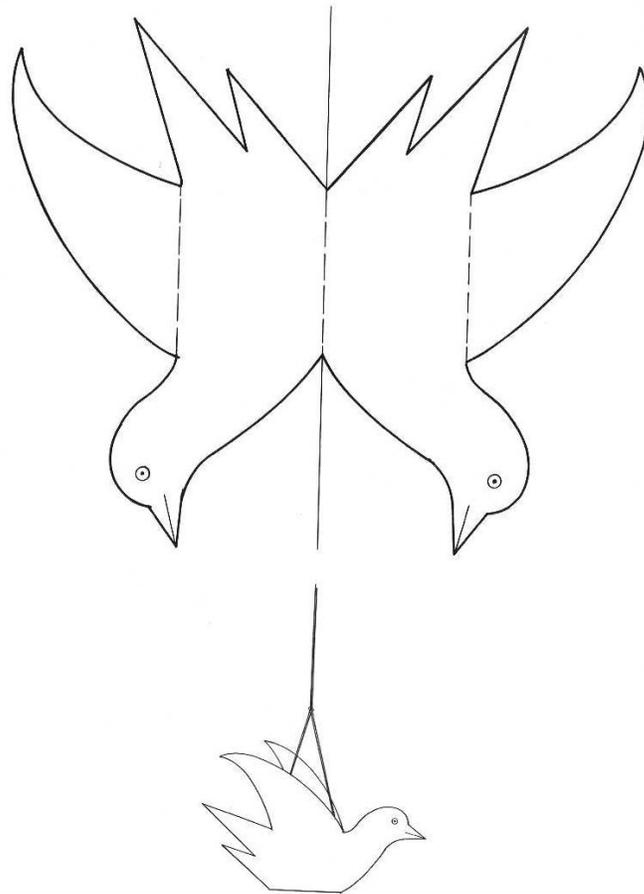
"Let's wait and see," said Grandma. They waited.

Before long, the mother bird did come back. In her beak she was carrying a little bunch of worms. Into each little open beak she popped a piece of worm. Tim was very happy.

"God really does look after all his creatures," he thought. "I know He cares for me too."

Craft

Make a cut-out bird mobile.



Fruit Riddle

Q. Why is it that the elephant couldn't be seen in the strawberry patch?

A. *Because he painted his toe-nails red.*

Songs

Do not Worry (Couldn't Be Finer)

I don't have to Worry (Sing a Joyful Song)

God is my Peace (All Creation Sings)

Session 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 your key of salvation. 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. "It's a bit like doing a difficult jigsaw. 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?

Teaching notes for Story 4: PATIENCE

Rebuilding Jerusalem (Ezra 4-6; Nehemiah 1-6)

Story

Have you ever noticed what a spider does when its web has been destroyed?

Sometimes spiders decide to make webs on the ceiling of your house...particularly in the corners. Mum will then get out the broom or vacuum cleaner and get rid of the cobwebs. The spider runs away, but before long you will find it in exactly the same place rebuilding its web. It never gives up, no matter how many times the web is destroyed. That's why a spider can teach us a lot about patience. It never gives up.

There's a story in the Bible about building something...not a spider's web, but a wall. God's people, the Israelites were trying to build a wall to keep out their enemies, but they had lots of problems. Here's the story...

Darius was a king of Babylon in Old Testament times. We remember how the Egyptian Pharaoh had held God's people captive earlier. God's people were being held captive once again... this time, by King Darius. Darius had been responsible for throwing Daniel into the lion's den. Then one day, King Darius died and a new king took his place. The new king was King Cyrus,. He was kind to the Israelites.

During the 70 years that Darius had been king, Jerusalem had been destroyed. The houses had been burned, the beautiful temple built by king Solomon had been destroyed, and the city walls had been broken down. King Cyrus decided to let the Israelites have Jerusalem back again. He said that they may rebuild the city, including the temple.

The Israelites set off for Jerusalem. It was a long way back...more than 500 miles. The people walked while the animals carried their possessions. Although the journey was long and difficult, the people were excited. When they arrived, they found nothing but a heap of rubbish. It took them a long time to clear it all away. Finally, the day came for them to start building.

However, the work was not as easy as they thought. As soon as they finished the city the walls, trouble began. Some of the Babylonians did not like what the Israelites were doing. King Cyrus's reign had been short. He died suddenly and a

new king took his place. The trouble-makers persuaded the new king to believe that the Israelites would not pay taxes once they had a city of their own. The new king put a stop to all work on the city. For 16 years, the Israelites did no more work. During this time, God sent two prophets to encourage the people. "Don't worry," said the prophets. "The temple will be built before long."

Then another new king came to reign. His name was Darius the Great. Darius the Great permitted the building to continue. He gave the Israelites money and materials, animals and food. Soon the temple was finished. It had taken 20 years to build. The people were filled with joy and praised God for sending King Darius the Great.

The re-building of the temple was an important sign to the Israelites, because God had promised them that soon after the rebuilding of the temple, a Saviour would be born in Israel. He would be God's own Son.

Although the Israelites were happy about the temple, there were dangers. The stone wall around the temple was still broken down. As fast as the workers tried to build up the wall, the enemies would come and knock it down again.

Nehemiah, a servant in the king's palace, heard about the problem and wanted to help. Nehemiah knew exactly what to do. He gave instruction to the builders:

"Every man," he said, "must build the part of the wall that is closest to his own house. Every man must have a sword as well as a trowel to build with. On the first day, half of the men will stand guard with their swords while the others build. On the next day, the men will change places."

Everyone set to work. But there were still difficulties with the enemies. At one point the builders were ready to give up.

"Don't stop!" said Nehemiah. "Keep working. Don't be afraid. God will help us."

God did help them, and in 52 days the wall was complete. Once again the Israelites praised God for sending another great helper, Nehemiah. God's people had learned an important lesson from building the wall...that is, to try, try, try again, and never give up. That's what patience is all about...sticking to a job and never giving up, even when things are difficult.

Quiz

Q. What is patience?

A. *It's waiting for something, without making a fuss, or working hard at something that is lots of work.*

Q. What do we need patience for?

A. *Waiting for a birthday to come, waiting for Mum to get some food or drink, doing jigsaws, putting all my things away in our bedroom, and picking up my toys are just a few.*

Q. Who had the most patience in the story of *The Hare and the Tortoise*?

(Listen to the song from *All Creation Sings*.)

A. *It was the tortoise, because he had to work hard at winning the race. The hare thought he was too clever and lost the race.*

Patience Game

You will need a square of paper. It shouldn't be too big. Now tear around and around, starting from one corner, and make a big long snake, without breaking the paper. This is going to take a lot of patience! You can cut several pieces of paper the same size and have a competition with your friends.

Songs

Waiting Patiently (All Creation Sings)

Hare and Tortoise (All Creation Sings)

Session 5: *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.

Teaching notes for Story 5: KINDNESS and GENTLENESS

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Story

Someone once asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbour?” Jesus answered by telling a story. The story shows us that our neighbour is not just the person who lives next door to us. It can be anyone. God expects us to show kindness to people we don’t know, as well as people we do know...just like the man in this story.

There was a man who was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho. These places are in the country of Israel. The road was long and dusty. The road led through lonely hills where there were rocks and caves. Sometimes robbers hid in those caves. They watched for lonely travelers. As the man went through the hills, some robbers caught him and beat him up. They took all his money, tore off his clothes, and left him lying on the road half dead.

After a while, someone came along. He was from Israel...from the same country as the man lying on the road. He also had an important position in the church. He was a priest. You would expect him to help wouldn’t you? ...from the same country, and from the church. But no. He didn’t even try to help. He walked on the other side of the road and passed by.

Soon, another man came down the road. He was also from Israel and a worker in God’s house, but not a rich man like the priest. He too crossed the road and hurried by without helping.

The hurt man lay still on the road. After a while a third person came by. He was riding a donkey. This man was not from Israel. He was from another country called Samaria. People from Israel and people from Samaria were enemies. They didn’t like one another. Now wouldn’t you expect this man to pass on by without helping? But he didn’t. He felt sorry for the man lying by the road. He didn’t care that people from his country and people from Israel were supposed to be enemies. He gave the man a drink from his water bag. He took some medicine out of his saddle bag to put on the wounds. Then he bandaged up the wounds. He lifted the man gently and put him on his donkey. He walked beside the man and held him as they traveled slowly. They kept going until they came to an inn. This is a place where travelers can stay for the night. He stayed with

the wounded man that night, and the next morning paid the inn-keeper some money, so that the man could stay there until he was better.

The third person was called a Samaritan because he came from the country of Samaria. He showed us what it is to be a good neighbour...to show love and kindness to people, even when we don't know them. God wants us to be kind to others too, and to show God's love to everyone.

Revision

Do you remember the names of the 9 fruits of the Spirit?

There's love, joy, peace...patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The bible verse is found in Galatians 5 verse 22.

Riddle

A riddle doesn't always have to be funny. In the old days, riddles were just hard questions that were very difficult to answer. Here's a riddle from the bible:

Q. Can a bad tree bear good fruit?

A. *No of course not!*

Think about a tree that has grubs on all its leaves. The fruit will have trouble growing because all the goodness is being taken out of the leaves by the grubs. Just like the fruit tree in the King's Garden, only a good tree bears good fruit. All of the King's followers should bear good fruit too. The good fruits are the fruit of the Spirit. When we have love in our hearts, then we will want to show kindness to others.

Songs

More like Jesus (Couldn't Be Finer)

A servant for Jesus (All Creation Sings)

Session 6: *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 Salvation, 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 ssurprise ssac. I'll show you

some of the goodies that are there. Put your hand in and see 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.

"Maybe 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."

Teaching notes for Story 6: GOODNESS

Live as children of the light (Ephesians 5:8-11)

If we say we are a Christian, then we must show it by our actions. We must do the right thing. Listen to what the Bible says about living as people of the light. It's found in Ephesians 5, starting at verse 9:

Live as people who belong to the light. Try to learn what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with things of the darkness.

Do you know who the light is? Yes, it's Jesus. Jesus said "I am the light of the world." Knowing the right thing is not enough. We must do it!

There are many people who know the right thing to do, but they don't always do it.

Bible research

Read 1 John 2:29. If we say we are a Christian, how should we act?

Read 1 John 1:5-7. What does it mean to walk in the light?

Walking in the light can mean that we think before we act. If something goes wrong, do we act in a 'typical' way? Do we do or say the first thing that comes into our head? Or do we stop and think about how Jesus would handle the situation?

Discussion: How should we react?

Here are some examples of things that could happen in everyday life. We could react in a good way or in a bad way. Think about how we can show the fruits of the Spirit in these situations. Try to make up your own situations as well.

Simon has spent hours on building something. Little sister comes and pulls it apart while Simon is out of the room. How should Simon react?

a) with anger; wanting to pay back; throwing a tantrum

b) forgiving little sister; exercising self-control; accepting the situation without getting angry

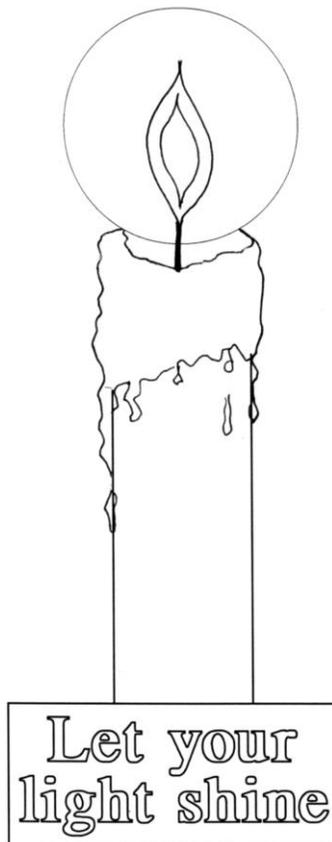
A new girl has come into the class. She is very shy and doesn't look as if she would be much fun to play with. How should the girls in the class react?

- a) ignore her and play with old friends
- b) make friends with her and include her in your games

A shop keeper gives Laura too much change. How should Laura react?

- a) Too bad for the shop keeper. I'm keeping the extra money.
- b) I'd better take back the extra change.

Make a poster



Songs

I want to be more like Jesus (Couldn't Be Finer)

Lord I want to Shine (Couldn't Be Finer)

Session 7: *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 Salvation, 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 around 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 again. 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."

Teaching notes for Story 7: faithfulness

Story- Jonah and the Whale

Jonah was a servant of God. He was a prophet. As a servant of God, God expected him to OBEY. One day, God came to Jonah and said, "Jonah, I want you to go to the great city of Ninevah and speak to the people. They are extremely wicked and I want you to tell them to turn from their sin and honour Me. Tell them that if they do not turn from their sin, then I will destroy their city."

Now Ninevah was a very important city. Also, the people of Ninevah were the enemies of his own people. Jonah decided that he would disobey God. He didn't really mind if the city was destroyed anyway. Jonah decided that he wouldn't deliver the message. Instead, he tried to run away. He went in the opposite direction to Ninevah. He went down to the sea and got on a ship. But Jonah could not run away from God. God was watching Jonah. He sent a big storm on the sea. The little ship tossed about on the stormy sea. The sailors were terrified. They were afraid their ship was going to be broken to pieces. They threw all their baggage into the sea so that the ship would not be so heavy. They prayed to their own gods to save them, but nothing helped.

All this time, Jonah was fast asleep below the deck. The captain went to him and woke him up. "Why don't you get up and pray to your God," said the captain. We're having such a bad storm.

The sailors decided to draw straws to see who was to blame for the storm. They thought that someone's god was angry and had sent the storm. Jonah drew the shortest straw.

"I am to blame," said Jonah. "I am running away from the God who made the heaven and earth. Throw me into the sea and the storm will stop."

The sailors threw Jonah into the sea. The storm stopped at once. The sailors know that Jonah's God was a powerful God. They promised to obey Jonah's God from then on.

God did not let Jonah drown. God sent a whale to swallow him. He was swallowed whole, and went right down into the belly of the whale. He was there for three days and three nights. But while he was there, he thought

about what he had done. He had disobeyed God. He prayed to god and promised God that he would obey His commands from now on.

Then God caused the whale to swim close to the shore, and to spout Jonah out onto dry land Then God came to Jonah a second time.

“Jonah, go to Ninevah and tell the people that they must turn from their sin,” said God.

This time Jonah went to Ninevah. The people listened to God. They were very sorry for their sin. The king commanded everyone to take off their good clothes and wear sacks, as a sign that they were sorry. God did not destroy the city.

Reflection on the story

In this story, which is a true story, Jonah had a job to do for God. He was asked to deliver a message from God, our King, just as Billy Bilby, in our make-believe story, was asked by the King to deliver messages. Jonah didn't obey God, and because he didn't obey, got into big trouble. But isn't it good to know that God forgives us. God forgave Jonah and gave him a second chance.

Jonah had a job to do for God. Just as Billy Bilby was asked by the King to deliver messages, a man called Jonah was asked by God to deliver a special message to the people of Ninevah.

Jonah didn't obey God, and because he didn't obey, he didn't have God's love, joy and peace in his heart. In fact, he was very miserable inside the whale. But isn't it good to know that God forgives us. God forgave Jonah and gave him a second chance. This time Jonah was ready to obey. He went off to Ninevah and gave them the special message from God. This was the special message: *"Stop doing the wicked things you are doing, and live for God."*

Just like Jonah, the characters of Bunyip Creek would have got into a lot of trouble if they had have followed the snake. And maybe that fun park wouldn't have been much fun after all.

Something to make

Make a fruit of the spirit wall hanging. Cut out nine circles. Draw a different fruit on each one. Then write the names of the nine fruits of the Spirit inside each fruit. Now join them all together with a long ribbon, with all the names going downwards. Just glue each circle to the ribbon in a long chain, and put a curtain hook at the top. Now you can hang it in your wall or on your door, to remind you of the nine fruits of the Spirit.

Songs

A Servant for Jesus (All Creation Sings)

Jonah and the Whale (All Creation Sings)



Session 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 Willie Wallaby, who also loved apples.

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

"Too many, too many!" said Willie.

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 Salvation. 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 Emily and Willie this fruit. I think it will help them."

So off they went, with their special fruit. Back at Bunyip Creek they found Emily Emu and Willie 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 Willie 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."

Teaching notes for Story 8: SELF-CONTROL

Self-control is not just about being greedy. It's also controlling our tongue. Sometimes we feel really angry at someone and we just want to shout and scream at them...or even hit them. That's the time when we need self-control. Do you remember David the Shepherd boy in the Bible? ...the boy that killed Goliath? The King was jealous of David because everyone thought he was so great. The king, whose name was Saul, became so angry at David that he couldn't control his anger. There's a story about David and King Saul in 1Samuel 26.

King Saul was jealous of David and he lost his temper. When we're angry we can act quickly without thinking, and hurt someone. We may not hurt them by hitting them, but we can hurt them with the words we say. That's why we need to ask God to give us the fruit of self-control.

Story

The king who could not control his anger. 1 Samuel 26

King Saul had been a good king. He had helped the Israelites defeat their enemies. People sang songs about his victories. However, now the people were paying more attention to David than Saul. David was now the brave hero who helped the Israelites win their battles. David had killed the giant, Goliath, completely unarmed. It was now David who the people sang about.

Jealousy grew in King Saul's heart. It caused him to change from a noble, upright king, to a king who could not control his anger. David had played music for King Saul, on his lyre. However King Saul didn't like David's music any more. One day, as David sat playing, King Saul suddenly took his spear and threw it at David. David dodged and the spear went into the wall. From this point on, David knew

that he must hide from the king. King Saul remained David's enemy for many years, until Saul finally died, and David became the new king.

In this story, King Saul had two problems. He was jealous of David who was so popular, and as well, he had a problem with anger. He lost his temper. When we're angry we can act quickly, without thinking. Sometimes we feel so angry that we just want to shout and scream ...or even hit or punch someone. We can act quickly without thinking, and hurt someone. We can also hurt someone with the words we say just as much as with our actions. That's why we need to ask God to give us self-control.

The greedy dog

Once there was a dog who was given a juicy bone for his dinner. He took the bone and ran off with it, in search of a special hiding place. He wanted to find a place where no other dog would take it. On his way to the special hiding place he crossed over a bridge. As he was running across the bridge he caught sight of another dog in the water. He stopped at once. He noticed that the other dog had a bone even bigger than his own! The greedy dog growled at the other dog, dropped his own bone and jumped into the water, thinking that he could grab hold of the other dog's bone.

Splash! He fell into the water! There was no dog there after all. He had only been looking at his reflection. As for his own bone, it had sunk to the bottom of the river. The greedy dog went home sadly, with no bone at all. He should have been happy with the bone he had in the first place!

Fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control!

Something to think about

Here's something for you to do. Think of some of the times when you need to have self-control...maybe eating too many lollies or chocolate at a birthday party...or when eating the biggest share of something, leaving the smallest for someone else...or times when you have to control your temper.

A fruit limerick

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.
She hated fruit, and always had the flu.
I must improve my diet, she said,
Or else I'm going to die in my bed.

A fruit riddle

Q. Why did the orange stop in the middle of the road? A. *It ran out of juice.*

Songs:

Lord I want to shine (Couldn't Be Finer)

I want to be more like Jesus (Couldn't Be Finer)

Recipes from the King's Garden

Here are some recipes to help you remember the 9 fruits of the Spirit. The names of the recipes have starting letters the same as the fruits of the Spirit. For example, Lemon Jelly Pie...L for lemon, J for jelly and P for pie. That's the same as the starting letters for love, joy, peace.

Lemon Jelly Pie

(love, joy, peace)

Here's what you need:

A pie crust

A small saucepan

A whisk

1/4 cup lemon juice

1 cup cold water

1 tablespoon honey

1 heaped teaspoon cornflour

1 egg

coconut

Method:

Put all ingredients in the saucepan. Heat on the stove while whisking constantly. Bring to boil. Pour the mixture into the pie crust. Sprinkle coconut on top when set.

Peanut Gobble Kisses

(patience, goodness, kindness)

Here's what you need:

1 and a half cups of plain flour
half a teaspoon of baking powder
3 tablespoons of olive oil
1 tablespoon of peanut butter
2 tablespoons of honey

Method:

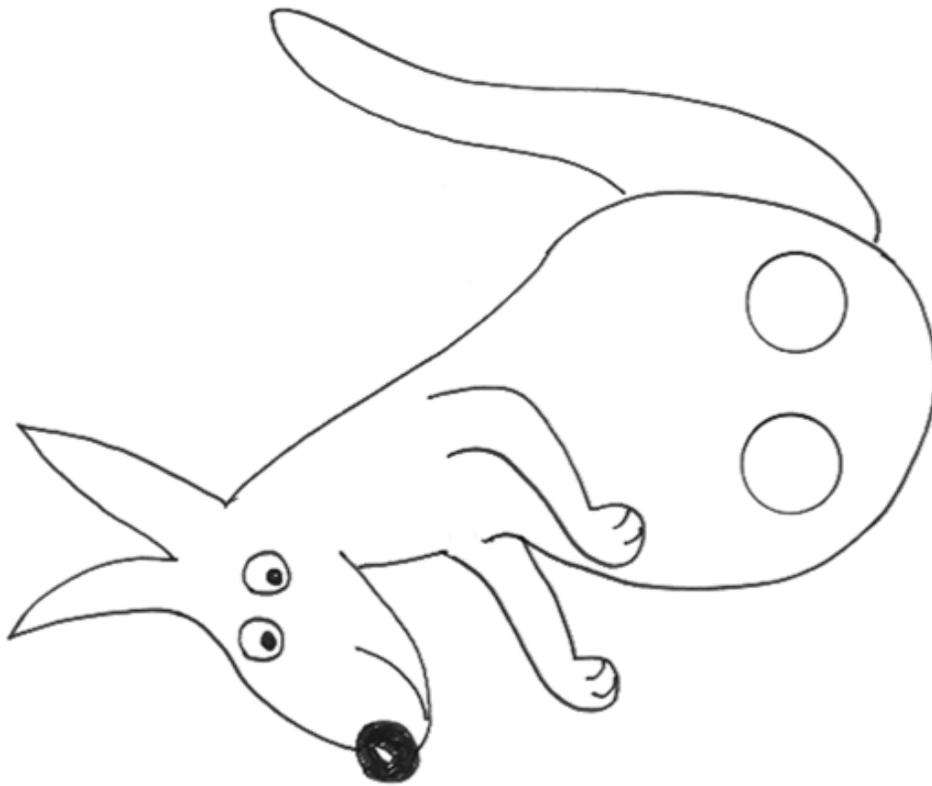
Mix everything together in a big bowl. Then get your hands into the mixture and squeeze it all around. Add a little bit of water if the mixture is too dry. Now put the mixture in the fridge for a little while. Roll out the mixture and make little circles using a cookie cutter.

Fruity Good Smoothie

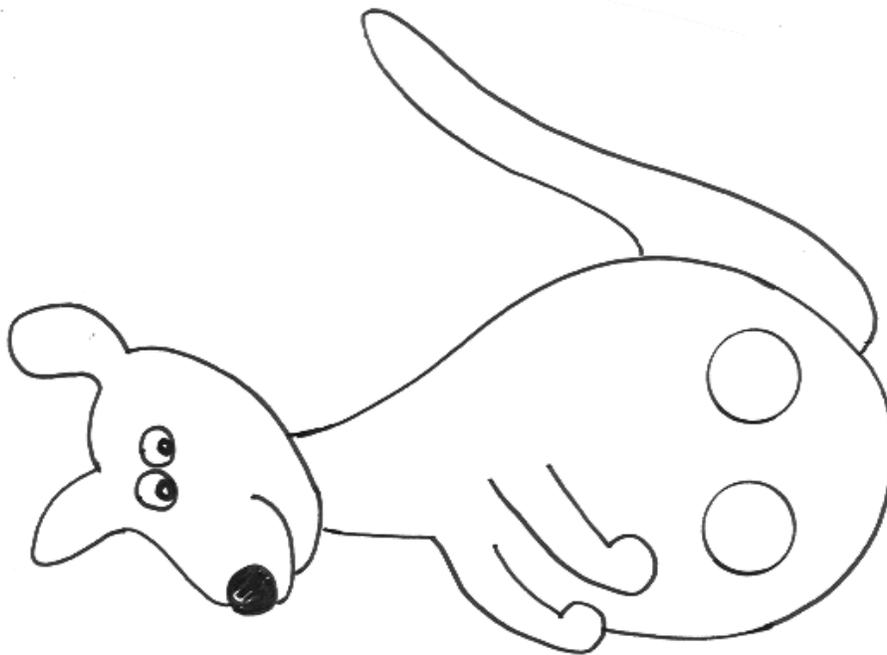
(faithfulness, gentleness, self-control)

Here's what you need:

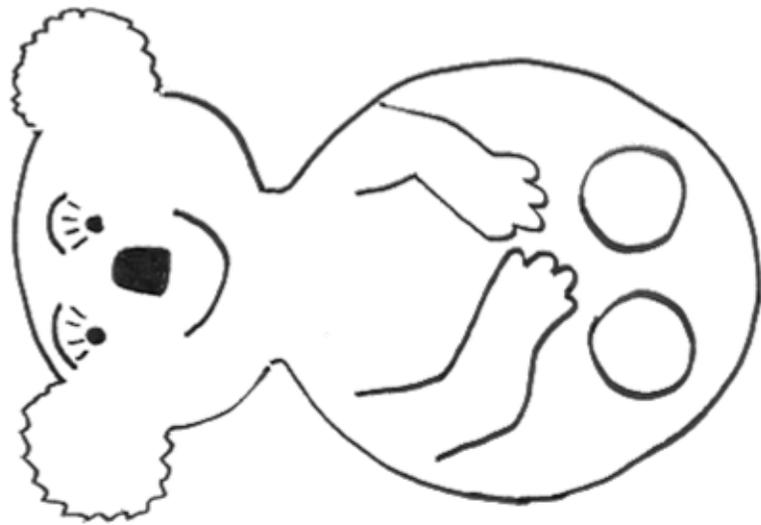
2 cups milk
1 piece of fruit, or some tinned fruit
Place fruit and milk together in blender and blend



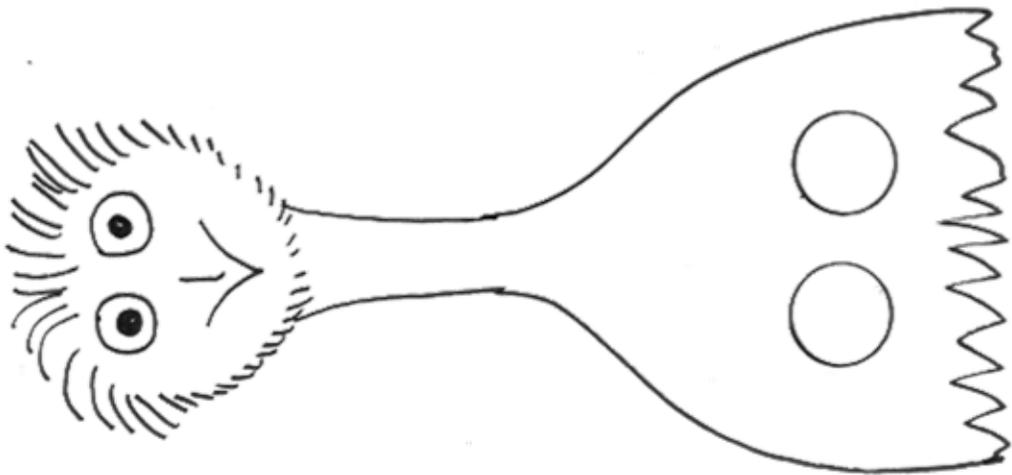
Kanga Joe



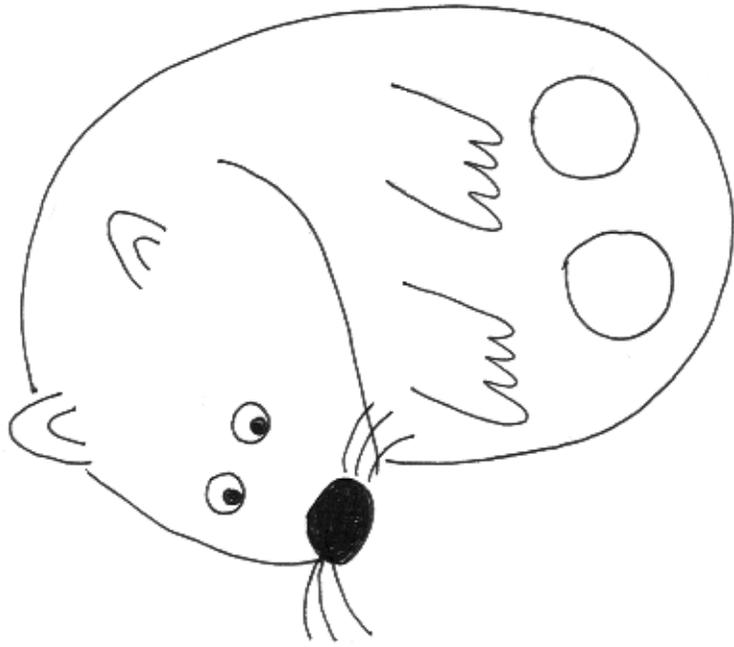
William Wallaby



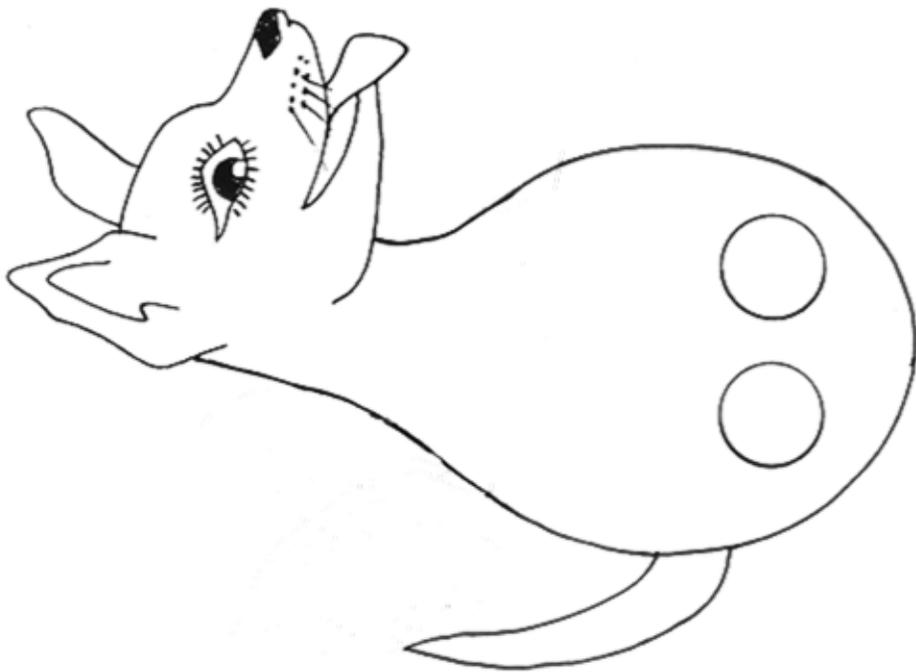
Katie Koala



Emily Emu



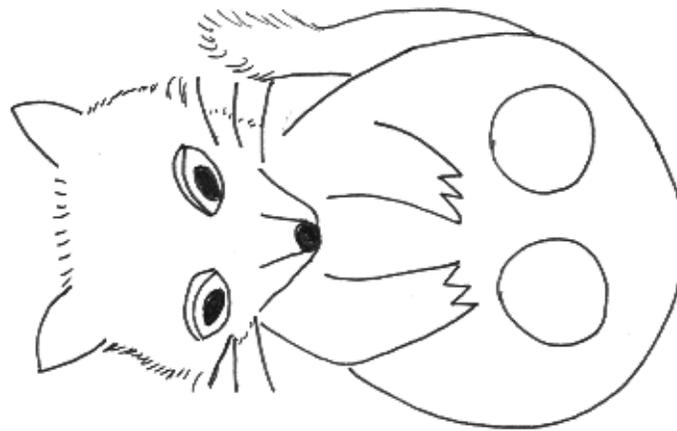
Wally Wombat



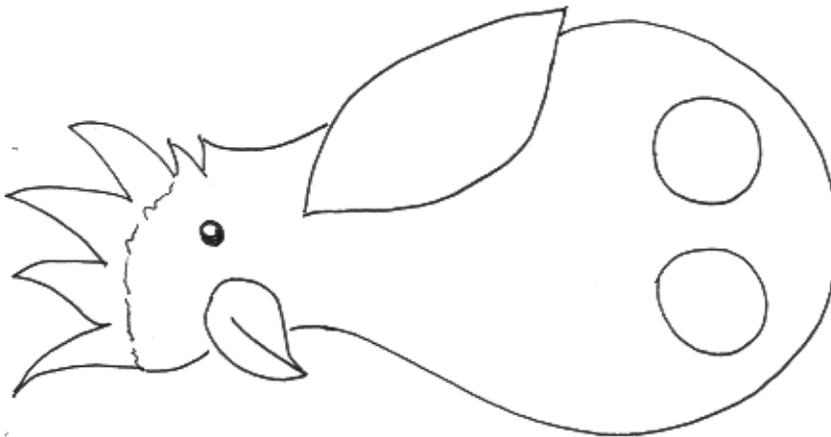
Diana Dingo



Billy Bilby



Mrs. Possum



Caroline Cockatoo

