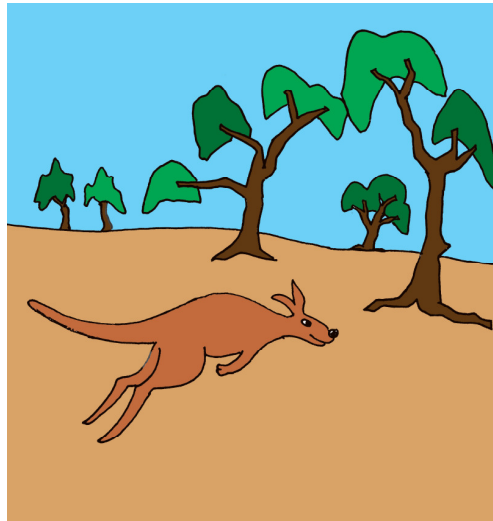


Kanga Joe

Story 1

The King's Garden

Fruit of the Spirit: love



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1

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.

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2

Would you like to know how to get to the King's Garden? Before we can go to the King's garden, there's something we must do. We have to put on love.

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

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

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

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

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



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

"Does it say anything?" asked Charlie.

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

"What King?" asked Charlie.

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

"Is it a secret garden?" asked Charlie.

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

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

"Is it in the bottle?" asked Charlie.

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

"Go where?" asked Charlie.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Oh, isn't this just beautiful, Charlie", exclaimed Charity. "Just look at all those animals. They're all playing together and not frightened of anyone or anything.

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

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

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

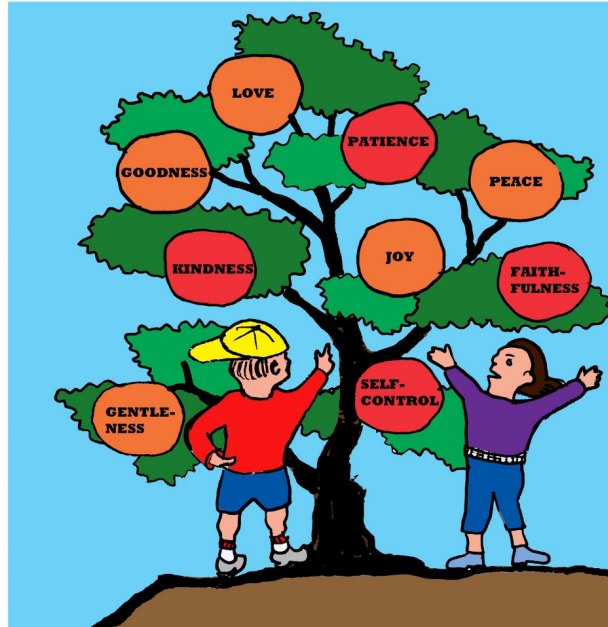
Then Charlie noticed how beautiful the plants were. "What's this tree," Charlie wondered. It looks like a fruit tree!"

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

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

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

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



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

"Open it, Charity!" said Charlie.

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

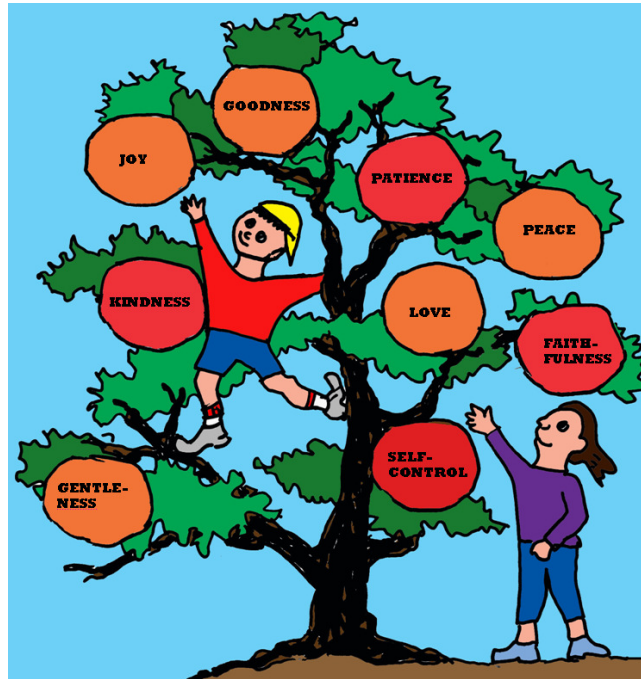
Charlie thought for a minute. "I think that means that the King wants us to have these fruits in our lives...so that we become... more loving, more joyful, more peaceful, more patient, kind and good, more faithful, gentle, and having self-control. Which fruit are you going to choose, Charity?"

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

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

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

"I'm going to choose joy," said Charlie, "because making people happy is what I do best!"



Joy is something we share with others. When we follow the King we have joy inside, even when things don't turn out as we would like them to."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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