

Kanga Joe

Story 2

The Birthday party

Fruit of the Spirit: Joy



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1

Joy is ...

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

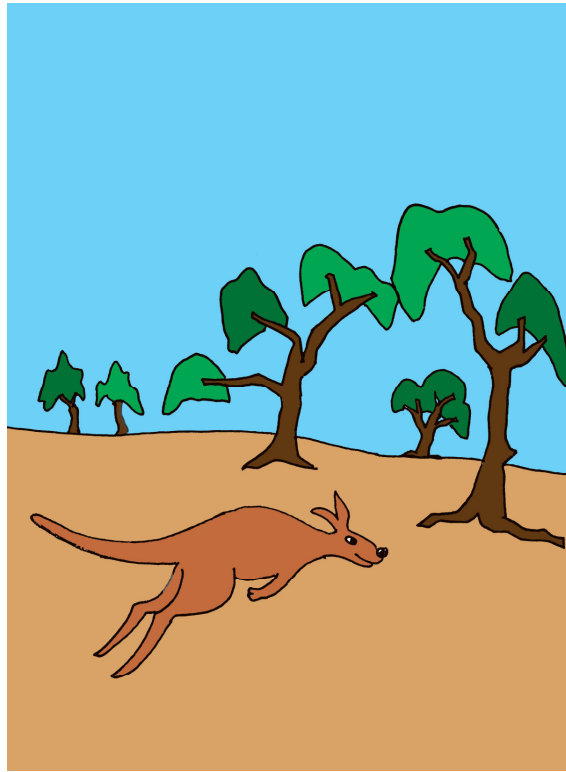
It was Emily Emu's birthday. Emily didn't know it was her birthday. You know what Emus are like. They never know when their birthday is. Anyway, the animals of Bunyip Creek thought that they could do something special for Emily. They wanted to give her a birthday party.

Kanga Joe, being the fastest animal in the bush, bounded along, quickly giving invitations to everyone he met, carefully making sure that Emily didn't know about it..."Can you come to Emily Emu's birthday party, 5 o'clock today at the big rock?...Wally Wombat...Can you come?... and Katie Koala... and Billy Bilby...and Caroline Cockatoo."

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2

Soon all the animals knew the time and meeting place.



Soon all the animals knew the time and the meeting place. It wasn't long before Kanga Joe ran into Emily.

"Hello Emily. I'm really busy at the moment. You don't think you could come over at 5 o'clock and help me with cleaning up my garden do you?" he asked. "You're so good at picking up papers. I could really use some help."

"Of course I'll help," said Emily. "What are friends for? I'll see you at 5 o'clock."

Now Emily thought that she was coming to do lots of work. Wouldn't she be in for a surprise! Making others happy is a way of sharing joy, and that's just what the animals were planning. They wanted to give Emily joy, by giving her a surprise party, and making her feel special.

Happiness is another name for joy, and joy is one of the special fruits of the Spirit. When we are followers of the King, we have joy inside, and the King wants us to give that joy away to others.

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

"How about some fruit," suggested Charity.

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

But then Charlie thought of an even better idea. "Why don't we go to the King's Garden and get some of that really special fruit?"

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

Soon they were there.

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

And today, instead of picking just one fruit, they picked every kind of fruit...love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. They filled up their basket, and hurried back to get everything ready.



All the animals were making preparations. There were lots of yummy things to eat and drink, as well as party hats, balloons and whistles.

It was nearly five o'clock, and the picnic table looked great.

Everyone hid behind the big rock. Soon Emily came along expecting to pick up her papers.

"I'll count to 3," said Kanga Joe, "and we'll all shout out "SURPRISE". Are you ready? Here she comes now..."

"Kanga Joe, where are you?" called Emily. "I'm here to help you pick up papers with my special Emu beak."

"1, 2, 3, SURPRISE," they all shouted. "Happy Birthday Emily!"



"You can have first choice of anything you like today Emily," said Kanga.

"Oh thank you. Those Pumpkin Gobble Kisses look delicious...Mmm and taste delicious too." she said. "Help yourself everyone!"

And so the animals, along with Charlie and Charity had a wonderful time together, sharing not just yummy food and fun, but sharing the fruits of the Spirit.

The next day, Charlie and Charity were on their way to the old apple tree that grew on the bank of Bunyip Creek. They were going to collect some apples to make an apple pie. They had almost filled their basket when they spotted old Mrs. Possum under the tree, eating an apple that had fallen on the ground. The children noticed that some of Mrs. Possum's fur had started to fall out. She was getting so old that collecting food was becoming very tiring for her.

"Why don't we give these fruits to old Mrs. Possum," said Charity.

"What a good idea," said Charlie.

The children knew where Mrs. Possum lived, so they quickly gathered up their basket and ran off to Mrs' Possum's gum tree.

"I love giving surprises," said Charity.

The children filled the hollow in the tree with the ripe juicy apples. What a surprise Mrs. Possum got when she returned home to find her hollow filled with apples!

"You know, we have just discovered another fruit from the King's Garden," said Charlie. "Giving things to others to make them happy is giving them JOY!"

"I remember that fruit," said Charity. "Doing special things for people is a way of giving them joy...especially when the special thing we do is a surprise! We can give others joy by helping them. Like helping Mum and Dad to put away our toys and setting the table for dinner.

I'm going to help Mum make the apple pie when I get home."

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

"I know," said Charity. "We can make things for others too. We can make little presents for others even when it's not their birthday! That really would be a JOY surprise! Giving joy to others is being a servant of the King. Jesus wants all His children to be servants."

"I've just thought of a way that we can help all the animals to give joy to each other. We can make a sign and hang it on this tree," said Charlie. "We can write this little saying:

JOY...J for Jesus first... O for others next...Y for yourself last."

The children found an old piece of board and some paints and got busy with their special sign. When it was finished they hung it on the tree for all the animals to see and it wasn't long before all the animals were doing special things for each other.