

Kanga Joe

Story 6

The Special message delivery

Fruit of the Spirit: faithfulness



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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 life, and put on love!"

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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 round 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.

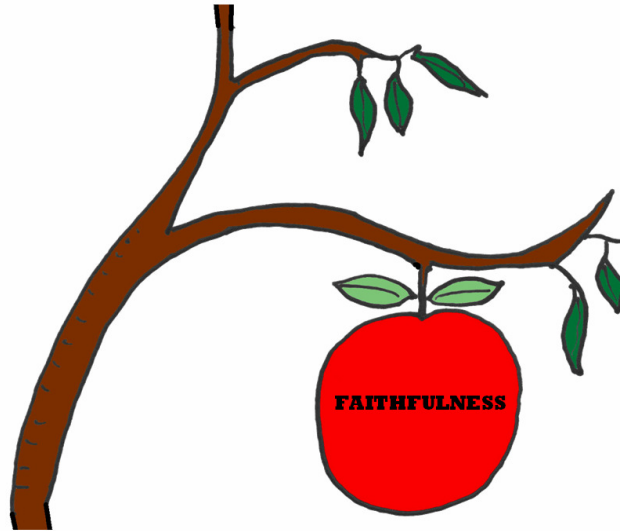
"Ah...here's the gate," said Charlie. "Get your keys ready everyone!"

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."