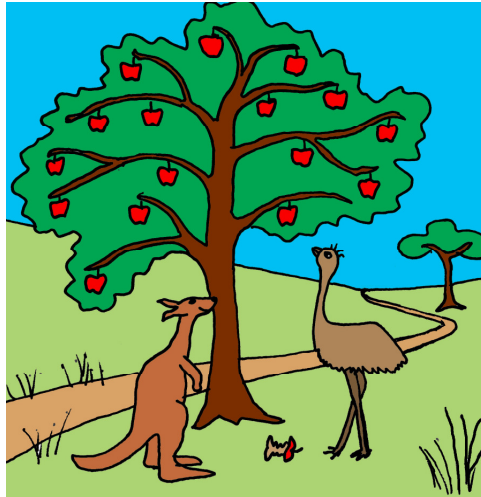


# Kanga Joe

## Story 8

### The most delicious red apples

*Fruit of the Spirit: self-control*



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#### ***Self-control is ...***

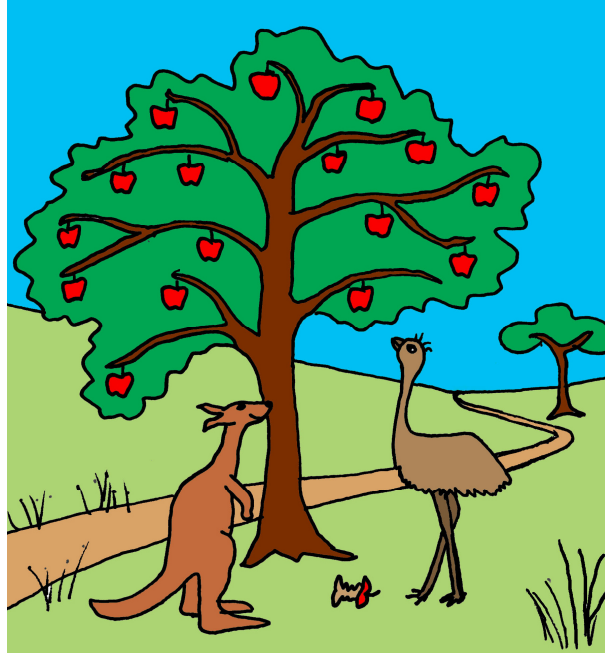
- *not losing your temper*
- *knowing when to stop*
- *not being greedy*
- *not giving in to temptation*

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.

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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 William Wallaby, who also loved apples.



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

"Too many, too many!" said William.

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 life. 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 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 this fruit to Emily and William. I think it will help them."

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

