

COUGH DROP, ANYONE?

"A good person has good things saved up in his heart. And so he brings good things out of his heart."

LUKE 6:45 ICB

With its round ears, black button nose, and thick gray and white fur, the koala looks like a teddy bear that's come to life. But even though it's often called a koala bear, the koala isn't a bear. It's a marsupial (mar-SOO-pee-uhl), just like the kangaroo.



EXPLORE THE WONDER

Kangaroos belong to the family *Macropodidae*, which means "big feet." Those big feet help kangaroos jump up to six feet in the air and as far as 25 feet or more in a single bound.

And kangaroos can keep on jumping at over 30 miles an hour—that's faster than the fastest man in the world can run! But there's one move kangaroos can't do: they can't walk backward!



Koalas only live in one place in the world: Australia. They spend most of their lives—as much as 22 hours a day—sleeping in eucalyptus trees. It's a pretty convenient location because eucalyptus leaves are the *only* thing they eat. No berries, no seeds, no nuts. Just eucalyptus leaves.

The thing is, eucalyptus leaves have a very strong smell. In fact, the oils from these leaves are often used to make cough drops, so you might have smelled their sharp scent before. Because koalas eat so many eucalyptus leaves, they sometimes smell like furry little cough drops!

What goes in *will* come out. It's true for koalas and their cough-drop scent, and it's true for us too. I don't mean you'll smell like that pizza you ate. But if you put things like anger, jealousy, gossip, or hate in your heart, guess what's going to come out in your words and actions? That same nasty stuff. But when you put the love, joy, and kindness of Christ in your heart, then those things will come out—and they "smell" pretty sweet!

God, help me get rid of all the unpleasant things in my heart and mind, and fill me with Your love instead. Amen.