Matthias and faithfulness

CHARACTERS: 3
COSTUMES: Adult and Child in street clothes, Matthias in Biblical attire
PROPS: Premarked Bible
SETTING: None implied
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 1

At rise: Child sits forlornly. Matthias enters and sits beside him.

CHILD: I'm having a bad week. Actually it has been a bad month. Really – it has been a bad year.

ADULT: Why?

CHILD: I tried out for the team but I didn't get picked.

ADULT: I bet that was disappointing.

CHILD: It sure was. And before that I auditioned for a play at school and I didn't get cast. And I never get picked to be the dead girl in Living Pictures. I'm tired of being left out so I've decided I'm not going to watch the games, go to the play or be in Living Pictures anymore.

ADULT: That's too bad. I have a person I'd like you to meet. His name is Matthias. Have you ever heard of him?

CHILD: I don't think so.

ADULT: Here is he is now. *(Introduces them to each other, they shake hands)*

MATTHIAS: I know exactly how you feel, not being chosen, except it was a long time ago. About 2000 years actually.

CHILD: What happened?

MATTHIAS: I didn't get picked. Let's sit and I'll tell everyone my story because I bet at some time or another everybody here has been disappointed they didn't get picked. Is that true? *(Get some responses from the audience. Ask them to share a time they wanted to get picked and didn't, how they felt)*

As I said, my name is Matthias. I was one of Jesus disciples. I was there in the beginning, with John's baptism. One night Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called us to him and chose twelve.

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I was standing there when he said “Peter, Andrew, James and John.” I was just waiting to hear him call my name, to make me one of his special apostles. Then he said “Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas.” Now Matthew and Matthias sound a lot alike and I was kinda embarrassed because I started going forward before I realized it wasn’t me he called.

Matthew – he was a tax collector. Everybody hated him. But Jesus had called him. So I’m thinking if Matthew can get selected then surely I will be. Then Jesus said “James, the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot”.

I waited. But that was it. He had only picked 12 of us and I was not one of them. I was so disappointed I wanted to cry – me a grown man. I felt rejected and left out but I didn’t let that stop me from following Jesus. I kept right on being a disciple, even if I wasn’t one of the 12 special ones. Even when other people quit.

CHILD: I bet that was hard.

MATTHIAS: It was hard to be faithful. Many disciples were not. Later on when Jesus was teaching about him being the bread of life, the living bread that came down from heaven, many of the disciples stopped following him. But not me. I was going to be faithful to the end. And I’m glad I did. God rewarded my faithfulness.

I will never forget the time we were all gathered together after Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven. Peter stood up and told us all how God had planned all along that a faithful disciple would be chosen to take Judas’s place hundreds of years before it happened. Why don’t you read out of the Bible what Peter said. *(Hands him Bible premarked to Acts 1)* Start at verse 16 and go to verse 25. .

CHILD: "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus— he was one of our number and shared in this ministry." *(Skip verses 18 and 19)*

"For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms,
" 'May his place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in it, and,
" 'May another take his place of leadership.” Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." *(Skip verse 23)* Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry

MATTHIAS: God knew my heart was faithful. God chose me. All along God had planned for me to be one of the chosen 12, but to fulfill prophesy I had to wait three years longer than the rest.

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CHILD: So it all worked out in God's time. *(Realization hits and shows on CHILD'S face)* I just remembered! Even Jesus prayed that God's will, not his be done.

MATTHIAS: Absolutely.

CHILD: Three years seems a long time but God knows better than we do. I just thought of something else. In a way I guess that was kind of good you weren't chosen when the rest were. I mean if you had been one of the original 12, you would have deserted Jesus in the garden.

MATTHIAS: That's true. Or denied him like Peter, doubted like Thomas or worst of all, I could have been the one to betray him if I had been chosen when I wanted to be chosen. As you can see, God's timing was perfect. I just had to be faithful, continue to follow Jesus and not focus on my disappointment. Jesus made sure I was in the right place at the right time.

CHILD: Thanks allot for coming to talk to me and these children. I'm not going to get discouraged. As long as I'm following Jesus, I know I'll be in the right place at the right time.

MATTHIAS: *(To audience)* Remember to be faithful and follow Jesus.

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