Foreword

What does it mean to be called by God? What does it look like? Sound like? Feel like?

Is it the big booming voice on the mountaintop commanding Moses to go down to Pharaoh? Is it a whisper in the heart encouraging us to go to sit with the child in the lunchroom who’s all by herself?

Through Called, children will discover how God can and will call anyone. Jeremiah heard the call when he was “just a child.” Mary and Martha heard the call when Jesus came to visit. Can you hear the call?

If not, why not?
If you can hear it, how are you responding?
Are you worried that you’re not up to it - that you’re somehow unworthy of the call?

Take heart! God has put something beautiful in you and is calling on you to share it with the world. It won’t always be easy, but God knows you and believes in you…even when you forget to believe in yourself.

God is not calling you to be someone else.
God is not calling you to be like someone else.
God is calling you because you’re you.
You are a child of God.
You are worthy.

- Mark Burrows
Production Notes

The Cast of Characters

I wanted to make sure all children felt they had access to any role, so, all roles may be played by either male or female performers. The characters in this musical are named for personality traits or special aspects that are important to any faith community. Since only one character is ever called by name, there was no reason to give them an arbitrary (and ultimately forgettable) place-holder name.

*Roles are listed in order from most lines to fewest.*

PEP – the real encourager of the cast, PEP’s main role is to build up others. Ideally played by an older child or youth who has a sense of confident assurance.

HANDY – every church has those members who step up to volunteer *all* the time. Their work can often go unnoticed, but it’s absolutely vital to the health of the faith community. HANDY is that character - but also has some self-doubt, unsure if he/she even has a true calling.

THEO (or THEA) – short for “theologian.” This is the one who knows more than mere Bible facts and is able to understand and unpack the deeper Bible truths. Like PEP, this part needs to be played with confident assurance.

Q – short for “questioner,” this is the natural skeptic of the cast. Q isn’t necessarily weak in faith but is definitely open to challenging conventional thought. Q questions out of a sense of natural curiosity, rather than puzzlement.

STEWARD – understands the value of responsibly using financial resources in order to fulfill God’s call.

GREEN THUMB – believes in the importance of caring for the natural world. If STEWARD focuses on financial stewardship, GREEN THUMB focuses on earth stewardship.

LITERALIST – this is the one hold-over name from my previous musical – *In the Image* (Choristers Guild, © 2016). Children (especially young children) are concrete thinkers. This role should be played straight, despite the fact that it has some of the more humorous lines.

BUSY B – a perpetual busybody. Only happy when doing something.

WHAT IF – one of the great questions of childhood. Children contribute so much to their faith communities by being unfettered by traditional logic. They aren’t afraid to dream irrationally big.

WHY NOT – the perfect companion question to “What if?” WHAT IF and WHY NOT are optimistic through and through.

JUSTICE – a social justice warrior. Passionate about fairness and positive change.

FRETS – worries about everything. A lot of hand-wringing.
The Me in Me

With drive \( \text{\( \frac{q}{q} = 120 \))}

Tambourine

Congas

Piano

Unison

An-oth-er day, an-oth-er proj-ect,

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CGC66
to make a brand new start,
Will there ever be a break,
another test to take.
calling in my heart?

What am I supposed to do?
Who am I supposed to be?
PEP: Wait. There's more. [reads]

“P.S. - If you’re worried you don’t have what it takes to be called by God,
that puts you in good company.
The Bible is full of people who felt unworthy to hear God’s call.
And God called them anyway!”

[to the group] Somebody get a Bible. Mr./Ms. __________ wrote down a couple of Bible stories to look up.

HANDY: Here’s a Bible by the donuts. Well, where the donuts used to be.

YUM: Sorry.

THEO: [holding up Bible] I brought my Bible from home.

PEP: [to THEO] Great. You look up Jeremiah 1, verses 4 through 8. [THEO begins thumbing through Bible]

FACTOID: That’s in the Old Testament, you know?

ALL: We know, Factoid!

PEP: [to HANDY] And you look up Luke 10, verses 38 through 42. [HANDY thumbs through the other Bible]

FACTOID: Luke is one of the four Gospels, you know?

ALL: We know, Factoid!

THEO: I found the story from Jeremiah.

[GREEN THUMB exits with the watering can.]

In God Calls Us All, solos 1 and 2 could be sung by THEO as if he/she is reading directly from the Bible. Or solo 1 could be sung by THEO and solo 2 could be sung by another cast member who also appears to be reading from the Bible. Or...the optional solos in this, and all the other songs, can be sung by small groups or the entire cast.
God Calls Us All

Calypso \( (d = 72) \)

One day God called Jeremiah when...
he was just a kid.
But Jeremiah

felt unworthy. He nearly ran and hid.
'Til
God said, “Do not be afraid, for I will be with you. I’ll help you know what words to say. I’ll help you know what words to say.”
The Call / Response section in **Doing What’s Right** can be approached a number of ways. Have a soloist lead each of the Calls, followed by the CHORUS on each Response. Or the entire cast can be divided into two parts: Part 1 sings the calls and Part 2 sings the responses on the first verse; reverse roles for the second verse.

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**Doing What’s Right**

Mark Burrows

A la tango \( \text{\( q = 116 \)} \)

Vibra Slap

\[\frac{4}{4} \]

Congas

\[\frac{4}{4} \text{ mp} \]

Piano

\[\text{Unison} \text{ mp} \]

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A la tango \( \text{\( q = 116 \)} \)

Do-ing what’s right

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is-n’t al-ways eas-y,

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CGC66
Doing what’s right isn’t always easy, but it’s always, always right!
Solo:
Tell-ing the truth.  
Heal-ing the earth.

All:
Tell-ing the truth.  
Heal-ing the earth.

Solo:
Build-ing for God.  
Work-ing for change.

All:
Build-ing for God.  
Work-ing for change.

Solo:
Fol-low-ing Je-sus.  
Wel-com-ing chil-dren.

All:
Fol-low-ing Je-sus.  
Wel-com-ing chil-dren.
JUSTICE: An end to bullying!

WHY NOT: More acceptance of differences!

YUM: Food for the hungry!

Q: Agreed. Now what are we going to do about it?

The optional solos in I Will Stand may be sung together by the CHORUS. For a more dramatic effect, each solo could be sung by a different cast member. Or based on the preceding dialogue, the solos could be sung by JUSTICE, WHY NOT, and YUM respectively. Or...
Solo 1 could be sung by JUSTICE
Solo 2 by JUSTICE and WHY NOT
Solo 3 by JUSTICE, WHY NOT, and YUM

And perhaps the CHORUS can add to the dramatic power: a few can stand the first time through singing the Refrain, a few more can join the second time, and everyone can stand and join for the final time singing the Refrain.

I Will Stand

Mark Burrows

With determination (q = 92)

Conga

Piano

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1. Who will stand for the boy who’s always picked on? Who will help bring his sadness to an end?
Who will show him that he’s a child of blessing?

Who will stand for the girl who knows she’s dif-f’rent? Who will tell her that we’re all dif-f’rent, too?
Who will show her that she’s a child of blessing?

Who will
Performance option: A small group joins soloist on the refrain at m. 12 (first time). A few more singers join for the second time at m. 12. All join in for the refrain at m. 42.
STEWARD: What? Raising money?

HANDY: [Placing a hand on STEWARD’S shoulder] Helping you.

ALL: Hey, yeah! That’s great! Awesome! Totally!

PEP: Make no mistake, we aren’t “just” kids.

WHAT IF: Each one of us is a child of God.

WHY NOT: Each one of us has something to share.

PEP: And each one of us is…

ALL: Worthy of God’s call!

*Full cast sings Worthy!, as far forward as possible, with energy!*
Worthy! I will live a life worthy; worthy of the calling I have received! Worthy! I will live a life worthy; worthy of the calling I have received!
I will be tire-less,

I will be fear-less, be-ing my best to serve those in need.

Watch-ing and wait-ing, hear-ing and help-ing, heed-ing the call, [Clap-clap]