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## Chapter 2

# Matthew and Rail

Matthew was a little sad he had to stop working. They were just ready to begin building the treehouse. When Matthew walked through the kitchen door he saw his mom.

Ì You're home early.î she said.

Ì Rail had to help his mom,î explained Matthew.

His mom shook her head. Ì Imagine, a boy having to help his mom. What will they think of next?î She pointed to the trashcan.

Ì Very funny,î said Matthew as he pulled the bulging plastic bag from the can.

Matthew stuffed the bag into a tall can by the garage. Ì At least I don't have to cook,î he mumbled.

His father walked up behind him. Ì At least I don't have to eat your cooking.î Matthew turned red. He hadn't realized that his dad was



in the garage.

Matthewís bike was turned upside down. ì Your tire is all fixed up. Youíre ready to roll,î smiled his dad.

Matthew picked mud off the frame of his bike. ì You know, that new bicycle would make a nice birthday present.î

His father picked up his tools. ì Matthew, you donít need a new bike. We donít have that kind of money right now, anyway.î

Matthew just stared at the cement floor of the garage. His father gently pushed Matthewís

chin up with a greasy hand. He stared into his sonís eyes.

ì Besides, we already have your birthday present. Ím sure youíre going to like it.î Matthew didnít find his dadís smile that encouraging.

He sat in his room. Sock balls were scattered on the floor.

ì Swish!î a sock passed through the tiny basketball goal. ì A three pointer at the buzzer! The crowd goes wild!î Matthew danced around the room to act out the victory. ì Itís a miracle!î

ì Itís stupid,î said his sister as she passed by his bedroom door. Matthew ignored her.

ì A miracle,î he suddenly had an idea. He knelt by his bed. ì Lord, you said in the Bible that we could ask for things. You said you would give us what we pray for. Lord, I want a bike. Amen.î

He thought for a second. ì I mean, I want the bike I saw in the store yesterday. The red one. In Jesusí name, Amen.î

School was boring on Monday. All Matthew could think about was the new bike. Matthew believed he was going to get it. God would tell his parents to buy it for him. Wednesday was his birthday. God would have 48 hours to come through.