

# Do As I'm Doing

BY KATE NIEMANN

(Based on a true story)

*He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness*

(John 8:12).

**V**room, vroom, vroom!" Brandon pushed his red toy convertible across the kitchen floor, driving it around the table and under the chairs in a zigzag pattern.

"Vroom, vroom, vroom!" Daniel echoed, driving his blue sedan in the same pattern.

Brandon parked his car under his chair. "Mom, what are we having for breakfast?"

Daniel parked his car right next to Brandon's.

"Yeah, Mom, what are we having for breakfast?"

"How about pancakes?" Mom asked.

"Yea, pancakes!" Brandon cheered.

"Yea, pancakes!" Daniel cheered just as loud.

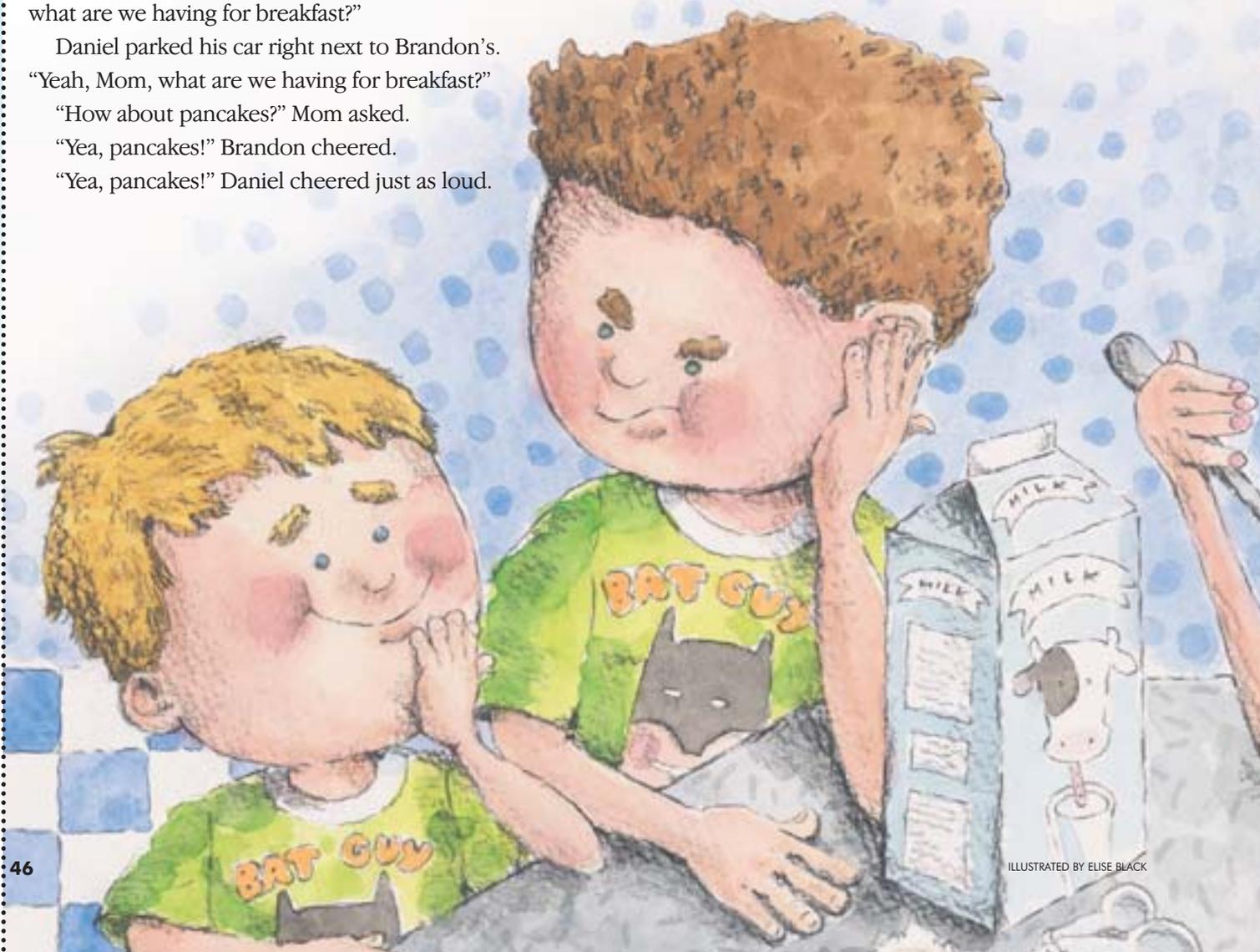
"Will you make me a car pancake?" Brandon asked.

"Yes, I will," Mom said.

"Will you make me a car pancake too?" Daniel asked, climbing up on his chair.

Brandon frowned. "Why does Daniel always have to copy me?" he asked. "Everything I do, he has to do, and everything I say, he says."

Mom smiled as she stirred pancake batter. "Little



brothers like to follow big brothers because they think their big brothers are really special. When Daniel copies you, he feels special too.”

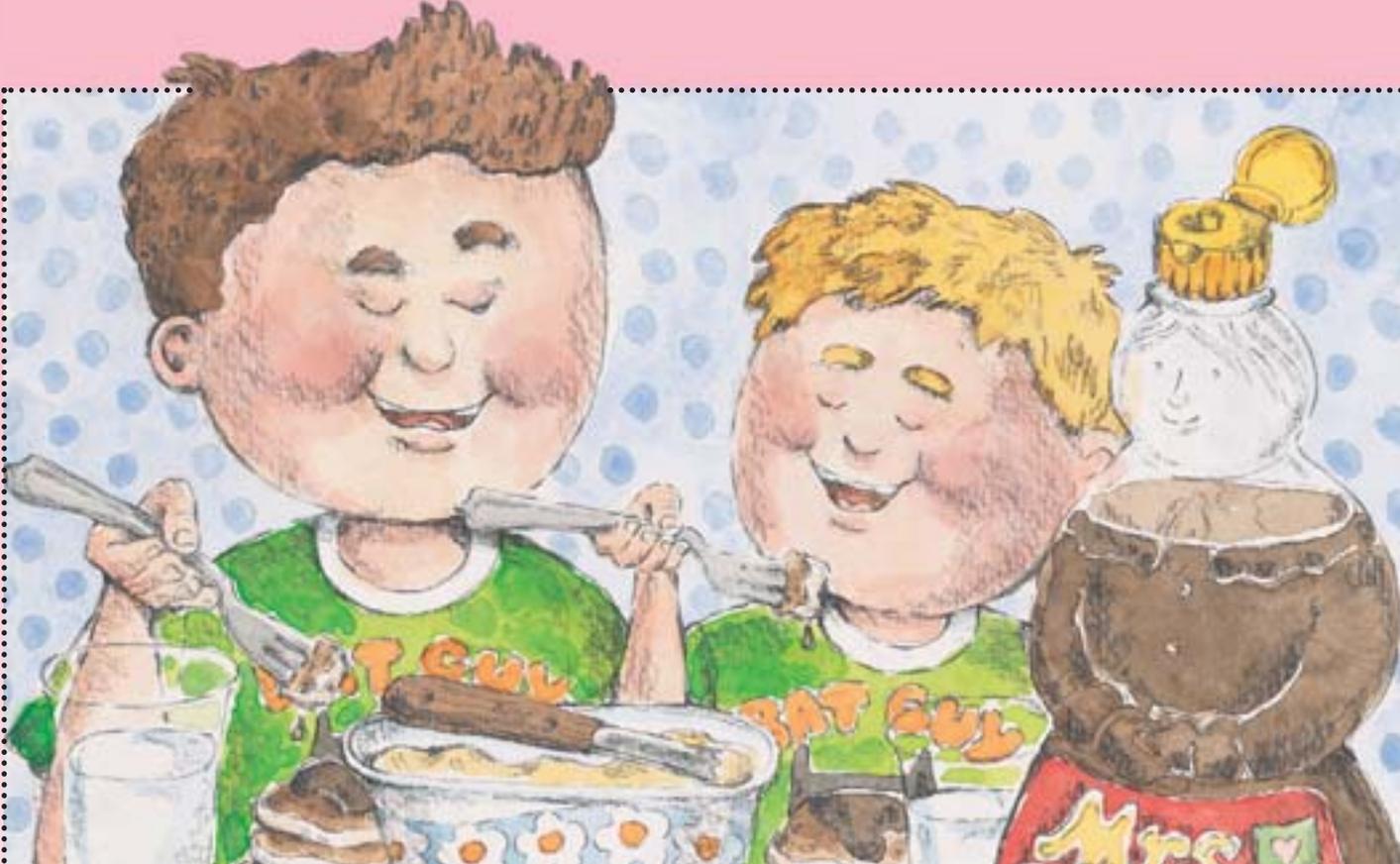
“But it bugs me, Mom.”

“I can understand that,” Mom said. “But remember that Daniel’s not trying to be annoying. He thinks you’re great, and he wants to be just like you. That’s why it’s important that you set a good example for him.”

Brandon shook his head. “Daniel is lucky that he doesn’t have a little brother to copy him all the time.”

Mom poured batter onto the hot griddle. A wonderful smell soon filled





the room. “Brandon,” she said, “you aren’t the only big brother who has a younger brother imitating him. Don’t you like to build model jets just like the ones Jeffrey builds, and drive your train on the track he put together?”

“Yeah, but Jeffrey doesn’t care if I copy him,” Brandon said. “And besides, I don’t say the same thing every time.”

“Jeffrey doesn’t care if I copy him either,” Daniel added.

Mom laughed but then grew serious. “I can think of a person whom we honor when we try to follow His example. Do you know who I mean?”

“Who?” Brandon and Daniel asked together.

“Jesus Christ. Did you know that He is the Firstborn of Heavenly Father’s spirit children? He is our Savior and sets the example for us.”

“Oh yeah,” Brandon said. “You told us that before.”

“He wants us to follow Him. One of the reasons He came to earth was to show us the things we should do and how we should act. Can you think of some ways you can follow Jesus?” Mom asked.

“We can get baptized,” Daniel said.

“And love little children,” Brandon added.

“Good answers,” Mom said. “And how about little

brothers? Do you think Jesus loves little brothers?”

“Yes,” they both answered.

“What kind of things do you think Jesus would do to show His love for little brothers?”

“Help them clean up,” Daniel said.

“Help them build things,” Brandon said.

Mom turned the pancakes over. “You’re both right,” she said. “When you help your brother, you’re treating him the way Jesus would treat him.”

“So I can follow Jesus by letting Daniel follow me?” Brandon asked.

“That’s right,” Mom said. “Whenever you treat someone with kindness you are following the Savior.”

“OK, Daniel,” Brandon said. “Should we both have syrup on our pancakes?”

“Yes!” Daniel exclaimed. “I like being like my brother!” ●

“His gospel is a gospel of love—love for God and love for one another. He directs us to follow his example.”

**Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “God’s Love for His Children,” *Ensign*, May 1988, 59.**

