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Church Magazines (Based on a true story)

“Keep the commandments! In this there is safety; in this there is peace” (Children’s Songbook, 146).

Danilo zoomed out of his apartment. His *tiya*, or aunt, was babysitting him. And they were going to the park!

His little sister, Rosamie, held Tiya’s hand as they walked along. But Danilo didn’t need to hold Tiya’s hand. He knew the way! He ran ahead and circled back, pretending to be flying at the speed of light as he raced around them.

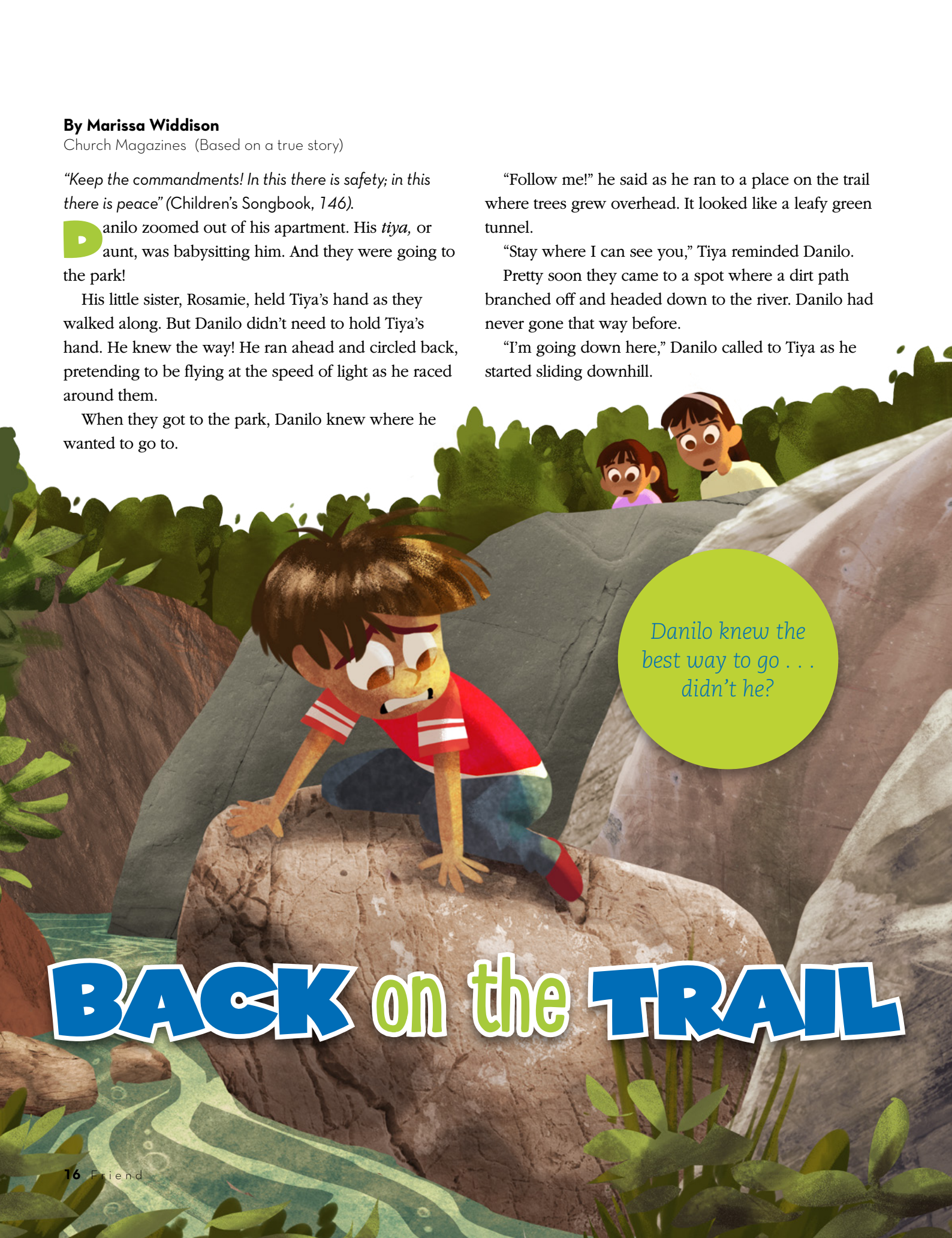
When they got to the park, Danilo knew where he wanted to go to.

“Follow me!” he said as he ran to a place on the trail where trees grew overhead. It looked like a leafy green tunnel.

“Stay where I can see you,” Tiya reminded Danilo.

Pretty soon they came to a spot where a dirt path branched off and headed down to the river. Danilo had never gone that way before.

“I’m going down here,” Danilo called to Tiya as he started sliding downhill.



Danilo knew the best way to go . . . didn't he?

BACK on the TRAIL

“You can stay there for a minute, but then come back up,” Tiya called after him. “I’ve tried that path before, and there’s not a good way to walk along the river down there.”

But Danilo was already at the water’s edge. He could see a small strip of dirt running next to the water. That way seemed fine to him. Maybe Tiya just didn’t know what she was talking about. Danilo kept walking along the water. Tiya and Rosamie kept walking along the path above.

Soon Danilo noticed that the hillside was getting steeper. He could still hear and see Tiya and Rosamie, but they were getting farther away. The ground became sticky with thick mud.

“*Oomph!*” Danilo pulled himself on top of a big rock. When he looked ahead, all he saw was the river. He felt his stomach do a little flip. There wasn’t any more trail. And he wasn’t sure he could climb up the hill by himself. He was stuck!

“Tiya?” he called, looking up. Tiya looked down the hillside and gave him a little smile. He felt his cheeks get hot. “Um . . . can you help me?”

With a kind look in her eyes, Tiya nodded. She picked up a long stick and held it down to him.

“Grab this,” she said. “I’ll pull, and you can climb back up to us.”

Danilo grabbed the stick and started walking uphill. It was hard! His knee scraped against a rock. His elbow hit a low-hanging tree branch.

Finally he took Tiya’s outstretched hand, and she pulled him back onto the trail. He brushed the dirt off his clothes and shook the leaves from his hair.

“Thanks,” he said. “Sorry I didn’t listen to you.”

Tiya put her arm around his shoulders and gave him a squeeze. “I love you, Danilo. I want you to be safe.”

Danilo nodded. With a smile, he pointed forward. “Let’s keep going! On the trail, this time.” ◆

A SAFE PATH

Tiya told Danilo which path was best to use. Heavenly Father has given us a path to follow. His commandments help keep us safe and happy.

Danilo realized he was stuck and wanted to get back on the right path. How can we repent when we make a wrong choice?

Tiya helped Danilo get back on the trail. Who can help us when we make a mistake?

Tiya was kind even after Danilo left the trail. How should we treat others when they make a bad choice?

Remember that your Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ love you no matter what! All of us make bad choices sometimes. We can always repent and return to Them.