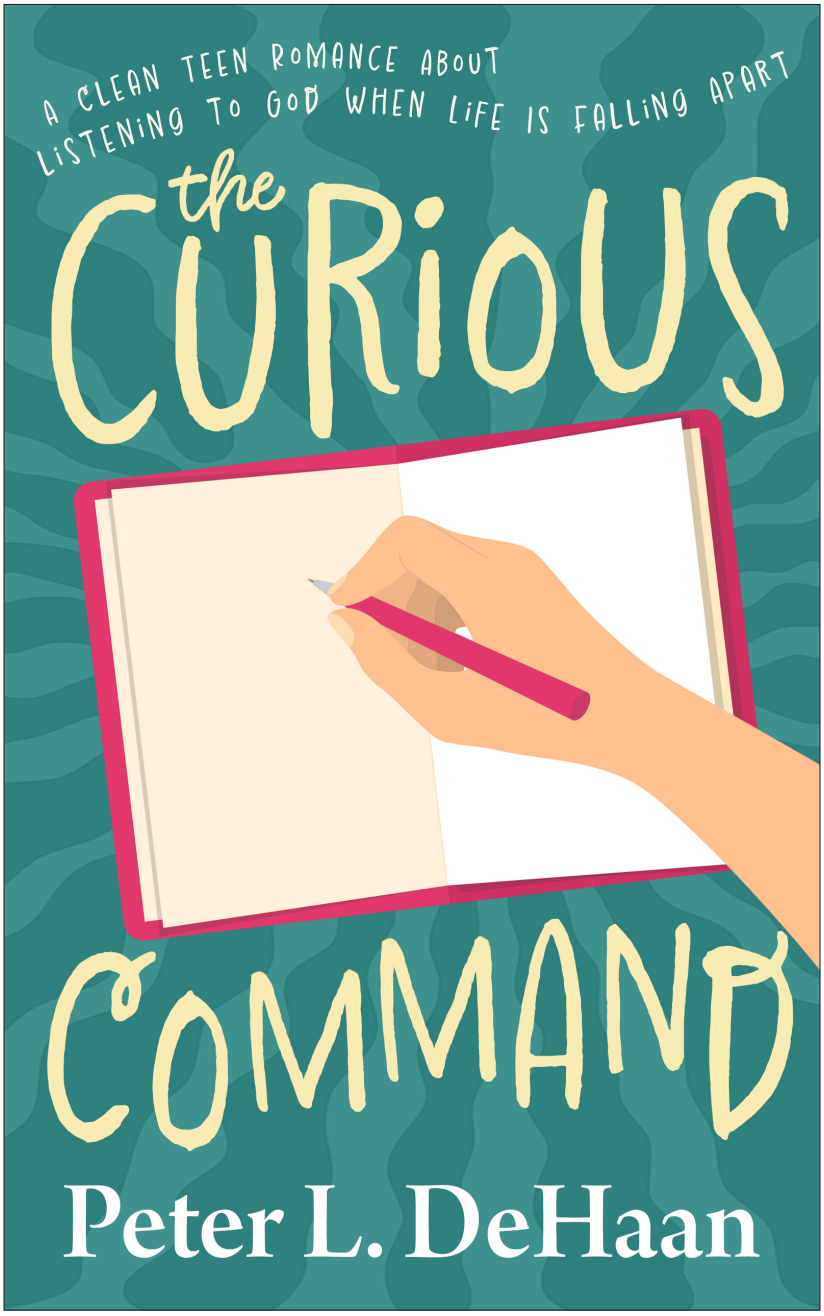


Discussion Guide for

The Curious Command

by Peter L. DeHaan

For book clubs

PeterLDeHaan.com

How to Use This Guide

Please finish the book first. The questions mention later events in the story.

Work through the chapter sections in order, or choose the groups that fit your meeting. There are no right or wrong answers—share what stood out to you. Save the whole-book questions for the end of your discussion.

Chapters 1–5: Jason Loses It and Receives the Book

Jason storms out after a fight with his mom, forgets to meet Madison, and receives the curious book. After a reckless drive home, he begins to turn things around with Claudia and his mom, and the book's first instructions arrive.

1. Everything seems to be going Jason's way, yet he feels angry and like a mess. Why do you think he feels this way?

2. Claudia asks, "You're the big brother . . . so how come I'm the responsible one?" Why does that question hit Jason so hard?

3. The book first says, "Apologize to your mom," and then, "Return to me." Why do you think Jason slams the book shut?

4. In the car, Mom tells Jason that the point of church isn't what he will get but what he will give. What do you think of her advice?

Chapters 6–10: Church, Claudia, and Dad

Jason sits with Claudia at church, asks Mr. Costner to pray for him, and faces Mr. Brindle about his driving. He spends time with Claudia, tries to talk with Mom about Dad, and meets Dad at Stella's Steakhouse.

1. Asking Mr. Costner to pray for him felt awkward to Jason. Why do you think the book sent him to his teacher?

2. The officer offered Jason mercy, yet Mr. Brindle still installed a driving app. What does this show about forgiveness and consequences?

3. Claudia asks whether she can trust God when she can't trust Dad. How does Jason answer her, and how would you answer?

4. Jason pushed the talk about Dad without praying first. What did he learn from how that conversation went?

Chapters 11–14: Listening and Spending Time with God

Mom catches Jason after his dinner with Dad, then hears him comfort Claudia. When Jason obeys the instruction to listen to his mother, she opens up about the family's money troubles. Jason learns what it means to spend time with God and to invest in Madison.

1. Jason resisted the urge to slam his door and chose to forgive Claudia for reading his book. Where do you see God helping him change?

2. What happened when Jason followed the instruction "Listen to your mother"?

3. Jason thought going to church on Sunday checked off "Spend time with me." What does he discover it means instead?

4. Madison tells Jason, "I'll wait. You're worth it." What does her answer reveal about her?

Chapters 15–19: Pizza with Dad, a Big Bow, and a Restaurant Surprise

Claudia reconnects with Dad over pizza, and Jason asks Dad about relationships and his future. Dad gives Mom a new car with a big red bow, and Jason arranges a Sunday lunch where his parents must finally talk.

1. Dad brought a vegetarian pizza for Mom. Why did such a small gift affect her so much?

2. Dad says, "True love doesn't keep score. But true love also reciprocates." How do you see that balance in your own relationships?

3. Jason decides to become an electrician instead of going to college. What do you think of how he made that choice?

4. Why do you think Mom reacted to the new car by saying, "We're certainly not keeping it"?

Chapters 20–23: Moving, Waiting, and Coming Home

Friends from church help the family move into Dad's house, but Mom doesn't come. After a long week, Jason finds her asleep in her car. The family begins to heal, and Jason proposes to Madison at the nature preserve.

1. Madison asks, "What good is praying if we don't do our part too?" How did the move show that idea in action?

2. Mom stayed away all week. How did Jason balance giving her space with working toward reconciliation?

3. When Mom returns, she apologizes to each family member. Which part of that scene meant the most to you?

4. Before saying yes, Madison asks Jason three questions about Jesus, God, and their future children. Why do those questions matter so much to her?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. Which character changed the most, and what caused that change?

2. The book's instructions often start small. Why do you think God begins with simple steps?

3. Mom tells Jason he knows about God but needs to walk the talk. How does Jason begin to do that?

4. Several instructions repeat, such as "Spend time with me" and "Work toward reconciliation." Why do you think they came more than once?

5. How does Madison and Lily's experience with the book help Jason?

6. Mom's stress shows up as anger. How does the story show compassion for her without excusing her behavior?

7. What role does forgiveness play in the healing of the Hayes family?

8. By the end, Jason hears God speak to his mind more than through the book. What do you make of that change?

9. What does the story show about investing in relationships with God, family, and a future spouse?

10. Which scene made you smile the most, and which gave you the most hope?

11. What do you think “the curious command” of the title refers to?

12. What one habit from Jason’s story would you like to try this month?

About the Author

Peter L. DeHaan is an adult who dreams of being a teenager. When he’s not contemplating grown-up thoughts, his mind retreats to the domain of invented worlds with his loyal and most real, yet still imaginary, friends. What grand adventures they have: righting wrongs, solving problems, and making their world a better place to live.

Read the Rest of The Curious Gift Series

The Curious Command is book 3 of The Curious Gift Series. The full series:

1. The Curious Gift
2. The Curious Calling
3. The Curious Command

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