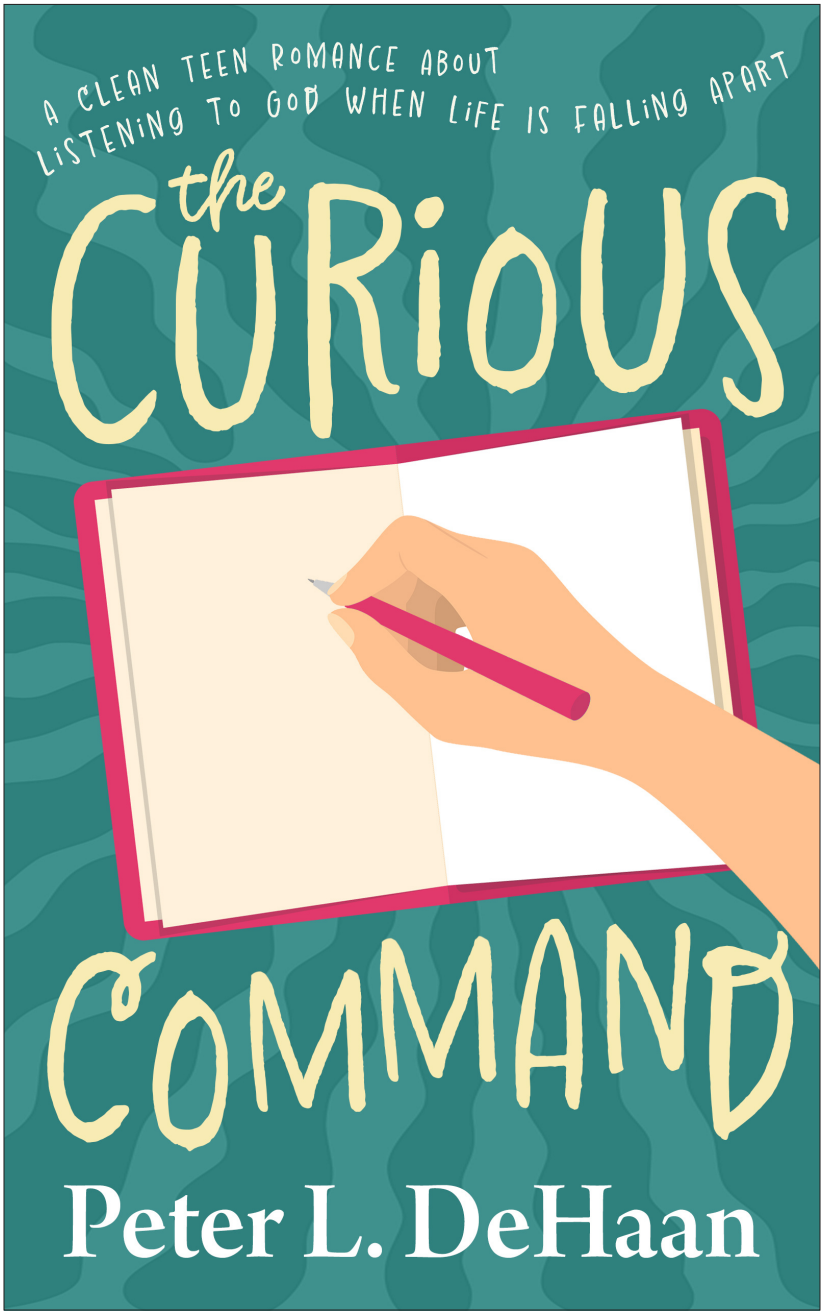


Discussion Guide for

The Curious Command

by Peter L. DeHaan

For high school classes

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How to Use This Guide

Please finish the book first, or finish each chapter group before discussing it. The questions mention later events in the story.

Work through the chapter sections in order, or choose the groups that fit your class period. 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: Anger, Apologies, and First Instructions

Jason storms out after fighting with his mom, receives the curious book, and drives recklessly to get home. He begins to take responsibility with Claudia and his mom as the book's first instructions appear.

1. Why do you think Jason feels so angry when everything seems to be going his way?
2. Jason chose responsibility over stomping off to his room. What small choices show his change in chapters 2 and 3?
3. Why does Mom say a text apology doesn't count? What makes an apology sincere?
4. How does the instruction "Return to me" challenge Jason's idea that he already knows God?

Chapters 6–10: Church, Consequences, and Dad

Jason sits with Claudia at church, asks Mr. Costner to pray for him, and faces Mr. Brindle about his reckless driving. He helps Claudia trust God, tries to talk with Mom about Dad, and reconnects with Dad over dinner.

1. Jason realizes he separated his church life from his school life. Why does being consistent matter?
2. Jason received mercy from the officer but still faced consequences. Why are both important?
3. Why does Jason's attempt to talk with Mom about Dad go so badly?
4. What does Dad's plan to save money and make amends show about his recovery?

Chapters 11–14: Listening and Learning

Mom catches Jason after his dinner with Dad. Jason comforts Claudia, listens to his mom as the book instructs, tells Claudia the truth about Dad, and learns what spending time with God really means.

1. When Claudia admits she read his book, Jason chooses to forgive her. What helped him respond that way?
2. How does listening instead of arguing change Jason's conversation with Mom?
3. What does Jason learn about Bible study, prayer, and meditation?
4. What does Madison's promise to wait show about their relationship?

Chapters 15–19: Advice, a Career, and a Car

Claudia meets Dad over pizza, and Jason asks Dad about relationships and his future. Jason chooses to become an electrician, Dad gives Mom a new car, and Jason arranges a lunch where his parents meet.

1. What does Dad mean when he compares investing in a relationship to investing in the stock market?
2. Do you agree with Dad's advice about college and the trades? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think Mom says, "We're certainly not keeping it," about the new car?
4. At the restaurant, words form in Jason's mind. How does he respond, and what does that show about his growth?

Chapters 20–23: Moving, Waiting, and Reconciling

Friends from church help the family move, but Mom doesn't come. Jason waits, prays, and keeps reaching out. Mom returns after losing both jobs, the family begins to heal, and Jason proposes to Madison.

1. How does the moving day show what real community looks like?
2. Why is the instruction "Work toward reconciliation" so hard for Jason to follow while Mom stays away?
3. Mom says she has no friends to turn to. How does the family respond when they find her in her car?
4. What do Madison's three questions before she says yes reveal about her priorities?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. What is the main lesson the story teaches about listening to God?

2. Which character changes the most, and what caused that change?

3. What does the story show about the cost of holding on to anger?

4. How do Jason's relationships with Madison, Claudia, Mom, and Dad each grow?

5. Which Bible verse in the story stood out to you most, and why?

6. What might have happened if Jason had ignored the book's instructions?

7. How does the story make investing in relationships feel doable for teens?

8. What part of Jason's story felt most like real life?

9. How does the ending give hope that broken families can heal?

10. What does the story show about true love between a young man and a young woman?

11. Why do you think the book gives Jason fewer instructions near the end?

12. What one habit from the story do you want to try this week?

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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