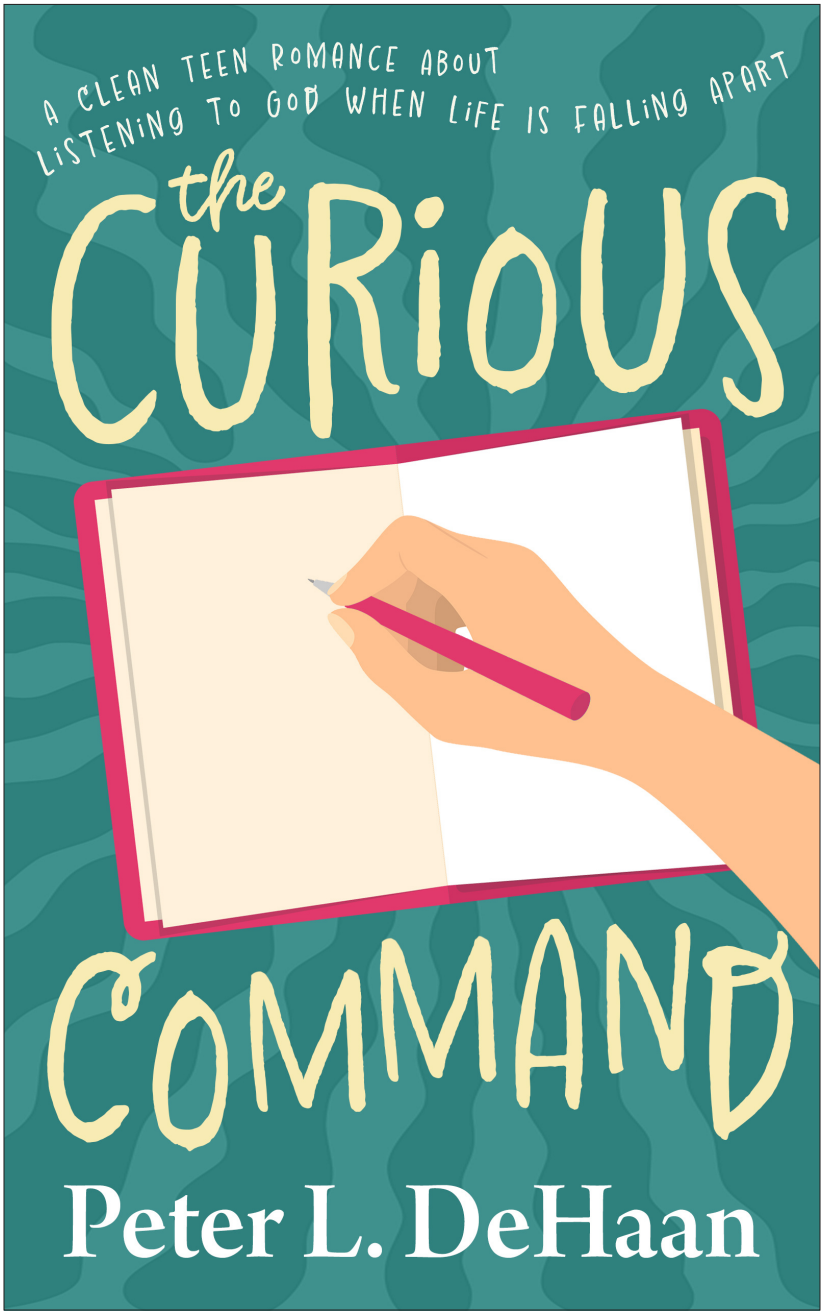


Discussion Guide for

The Curious Command

by Peter L. DeHaan

For homeschool and co-op classes

PeterLDeHaan.com

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 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: The Book Arrives and Jason Makes Amends

Jason's bad day ends with a curious book and a lot of apologies. He begins helping at home, and the book tells him to apologize to his mom and return to God.

1. Why does Jason feel like such a mess in chapter 1?

2. What does Claudia mean when she says she is "the responsible one"?

3. What does Madison say when Jason doubts that God is writing in the book?

4. Read Zechariah 1:3. How does this Bible verse connect to the book's instruction "Return to me"?

Chapters 6–10: Church, Claudia, and Dad

Jason sits with Claudia at church, asks Mr. Costner to pray for him, spends time with his sister, tries to talk with Mom about Dad, and has dinner with Dad.

1. Why does Jason ask Mr. Costner to pray for him, and what does he ask for?

2. What does Claudia ask Jason about God being her heavenly Father?

3. What does Jason realize after his talk with Mom about Dad goes badly?

4. Read Deuteronomy 31:6, the Bible verse Jason shares with Claudia. Why does it make such a difference to her?

Chapters 11–14: Listening and Spending Time with God

Mom is angry when Jason comes home from dinner with Dad, but when Jason listens to her, she apologizes and shares the family's troubles. Jason tells Claudia about Dad and learns what it means to spend time with God.

1. How does Jason respond when Claudia admits she came into his room and read his book?

2. What does Mom tell Jason after he listens to her?

3. How do Madison and Lily spend time with God each day?

4. Read Psalm 46:10. What does it mean to "be still and know" God?

Chapters 15–19: Pizza, Advice, and a Big Bow

Claudia sees Dad again over pizza, Dad gives Jason advice about Madison and his future, Dad gives Mom a new car, and Jason arranges a family lunch.

1. What does Dad bring for dinner, and why does he bring four pizzas?

2. How does Dad explain what it means to invest in a relationship?

3. Why do you think Mom says she won't keep the car?

4. Read Ephesians 4:32. How do Dad's card and gift show kindness, and what makes forgiving him so hard for Mom?

Chapters 20–23: Moving Day and Coming Home

Friends help the family move, Mom stays away for a long week, and then she comes home. The family begins to heal, and Jason proposes to Madison.

1. Who comes to help with the move, and how do they help?

2. How does Jason keep reaching out to Mom while she is gone?

3. What does the family do to welcome Mom home?

4. What three questions does Madison ask Jason before she says yes?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. How does Jason change from the first chapter to the last?

2. Which instruction in the book surprised you most?

3. How does Jason become a better big brother?

4. Read James 1:22. Where do you see Jason both hearing and doing what God says?

5. How do Madison and Lily help Jason without making him feel small?

6. Why is it important to pray before a hard conversation?

7. How does forgiveness help the Hayes family heal?

8. What did you learn about spending time with God every day?

9. Which scene would you most like to act out or retell to a friend?

10. Which character reminded you of someone you know?

11. How does Dad show what it means to make amends?

12. How has this story helped you want to listen to God in your own life?

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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