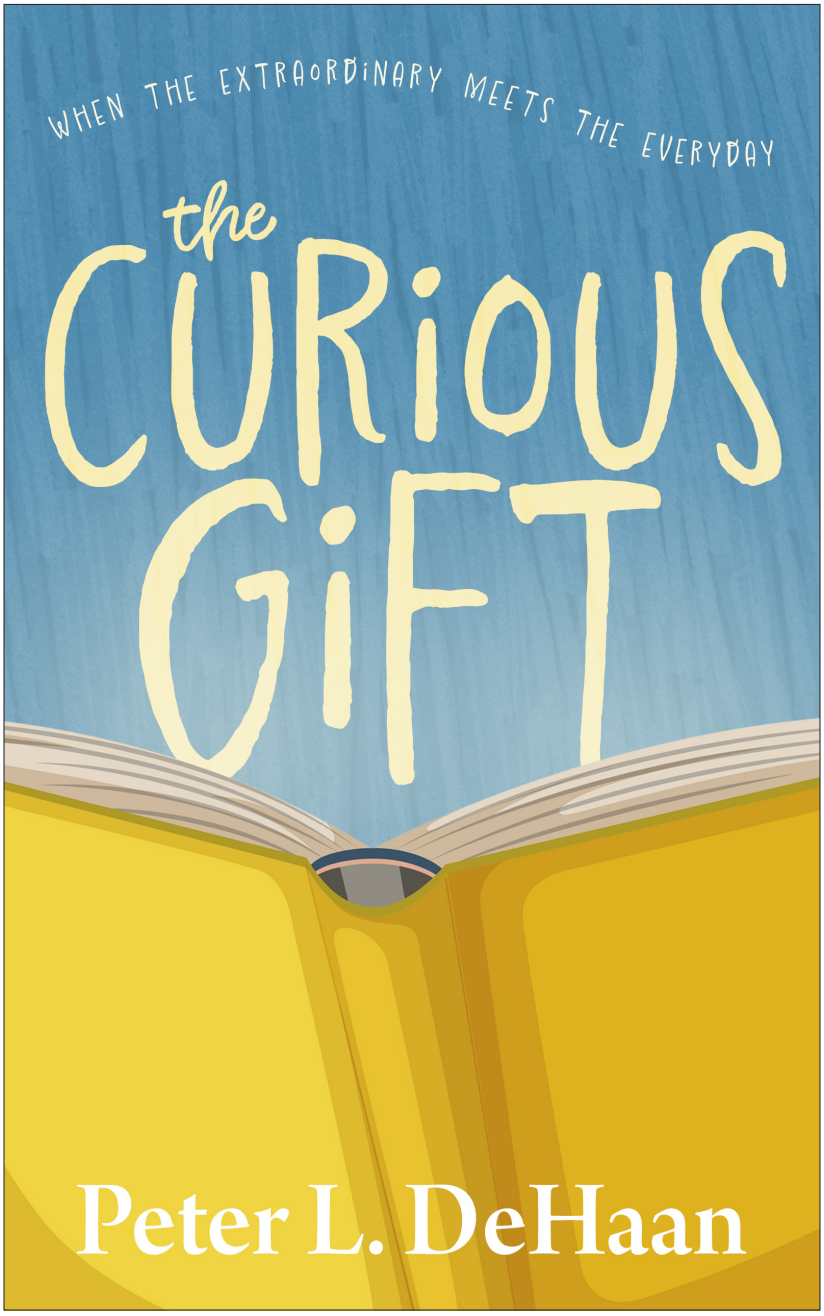


Discussion Guide for

The Curious Gift

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 1–4: The Gift, the First Date, Listening, and Brownies

Madison receives a blank book from Gram that soon tells her to say yes to a movie with Ryan, then to listen to him at the coffee shop, and then to bake brownies for her homeroom.

1. How does Madison's grief over Gram affect the way she reacts to the blank book at first?
2. Why do you think Madison decides to obey even though the first instruction feels risky?
3. What changes in Madison when she chooses to listen instead of talk during her coffee-shop time with Ryan?
4. How does making the brownies become more than a baking task?

Chapters 5–8: Detention, Lunch, Crisis, and a Place to Stay

Madison receives detention for a plastic knife, keeps her promise to help Lily, and later opens her home when Lily is suddenly evicted.

1. How does detention turn into an unexpected chance to help others?
2. Why is it significant that Madison invites Lily to sit with her in the cafeteria?
3. How does buying Lily new shoes become a turning point for both girls?
4. How does the instruction "Give a homeless girl a place to stay" stretch Madison's faith?

Chapters 9–12: New Instructions, Algebra Help, Michael's Room, and the Mall

Madison is told to eat lunch with Ryan, helps two girls with algebra in detention, sees Michael give up his room for Lily, and helps Ryan with a haircut and new clothes.

1. Why did the plural "help them" stretch Madison's thinking?
2. How does helping Ella and Hannah with algebra show Madison's growing confidence in following God?
3. How does Michael's generosity with his room affect Lily's sense of worth?
4. Why was Ryan's new look more than just clothes?

Chapters 13–16: Work, Sunday, and Fixing What Was Broken

Madison helps Lily open a bank account and find a job. Lily goes to church for the first time, and Madison has to repair a misunderstanding with Shea.

1. What stands out to Lily about Madison's family rules for phones and Sundays?
2. How does the church service help Lily begin to understand God's love?
3. How does Madison's reaction to Shea's anger show growth in her character?
4. Why is it important that Madison apologizes and explains rather than defends herself?

Chapters 17–21: The Double Date, Biscuits, a Birthday Present, and the Last Instruction

A double date clears the air between Madison and Jason. Madison bakes Gram's biscuits, helps reunite Jason with his father, and is told to pass the book to Lily.

1. Why was the double date such a turning point for Madison and Jason?
2. How did baking the biscuits help Madison and her mom grieve?
3. What made the restaurant reunion the perfect birthday present?
4. How does Madison's decision to give the book to Lily continue the story's legacy of faith and service?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. What is the main message you will remember from The Curious Gift?
2. Which character grew the most in their faith, and why?
3. How does the story show that small acts of obedience can change lives?
4. What does Madison learn about hearing from God that you would like to experience?
5. How does the book portray grace—both God's grace and the grace we show others?
6. Which scene made you laugh or cry the most, and why?
7. What does the story teach about family—both biological and chosen?
8. How does Madison's journey from grief to purpose encourage you in your own season of loss?
9. Which instruction from the book would have been the hardest for you to follow, and why?
10. How does the ending point readers toward a deeper relationship with God rather than dependence on a book?
11. What would change in your life if you asked God each morning, "What would you like me to do today?"
12. If you could give this book to one person, who would it be and why?

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 Gift is book 1 of The Curious Gift Series. The full series:

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

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