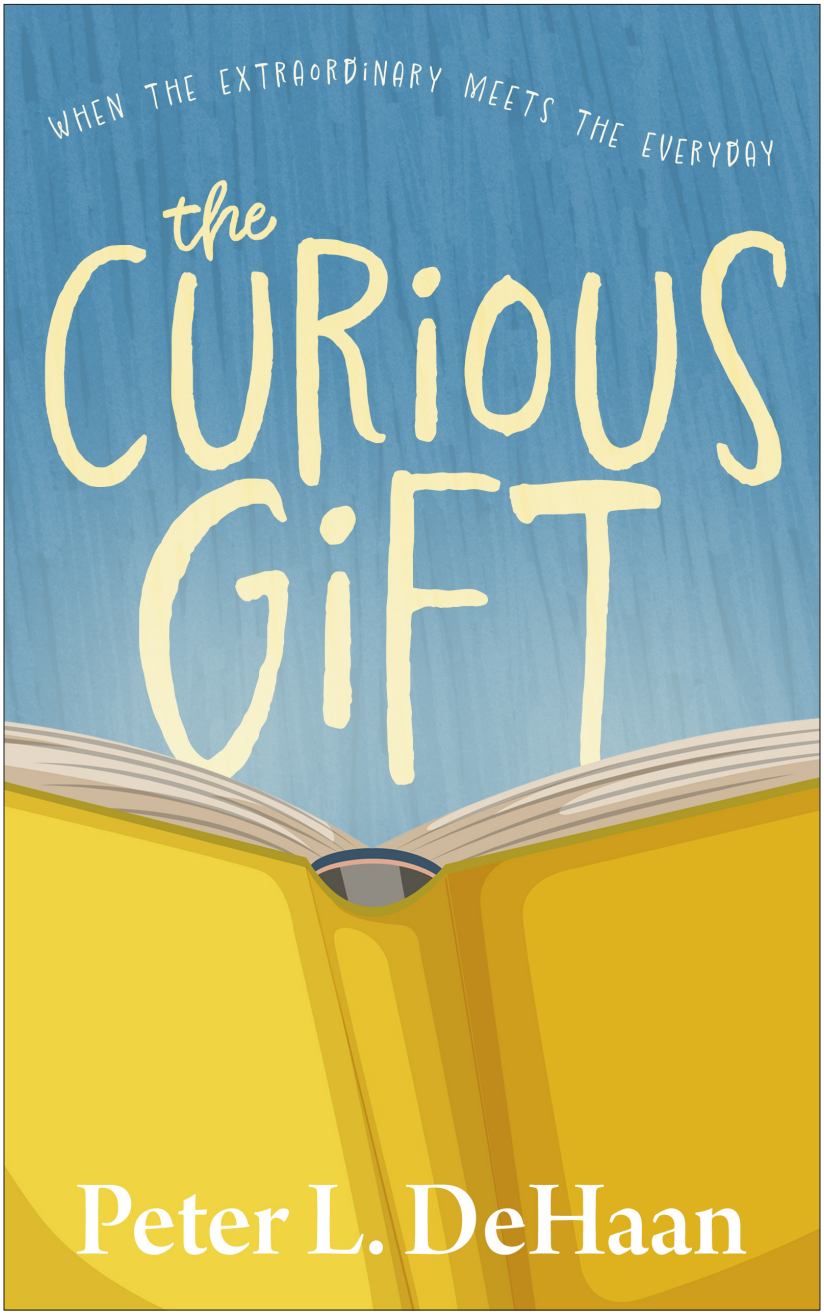


Discussion Guide for

The Curious Gift

by Peter L. DeHaan

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

Madison receives a blank book from her late grandmother that gives her a surprising instruction about Ryan, then tells her to listen to him and bake brownies that lead her to Lily.

1. Why do you think Gram's first message felt so random and risky to Madison?

2. What does Madison's decision to say "yes" to Ryan reveal about her character?

3. Why was listening such a powerful instruction for Ryan?

4. How did making brownies for Lily's birthday show Madison's growing faith?

Chapters 5–8: Detention, Lunch, Crisis, and Sleepover

Madison receives detention for the plastic knife, keeps her promise to help Lily, and later brings Lily home after her mother is arrested and they are evicted.

1. How did detention turn into an unexpected blessing?

2. Why was Lily's first cafeteria lunch such a big moment?

3. How did the eviction scene test Madison's faith and quick thinking?

4. How did the Monroe family's hospitality show grace in action?

Chapters 9–12: Lunch with Ryan, Algebra Help, Michael's Room, and the Mall

Madison is told to eat lunch with Ryan, helps Ella and Hannah 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 did helping with algebra turn detention into a chance to serve?
3. How did Michael's generosity affect Lily?
4. Why was Ryan's new look more than just clothes?

Chapters 13–16: Saturday Surprise, Sunday Service, and Fixing the Broken

Madison helps Lily open a bank account and find a job. Lily attends church for the first time, and Madison has to "fix the things you broke."

1. What stood out to Lily most about church?
2. How did the family's phone-free Sunday afternoon model healthy boundaries?
3. How did the book's instruction "Fix the things you broke" challenge Madison?
4. Why was it important that Madison took responsibility even when she hadn't meant to hurt anyone?

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

Madison sets up a double date, bakes Gram's biscuits, reunites Jason with his dad, and receives the book's final message.

1. How did Jason's fear of becoming like his dad affect their relationship?
2. How did baking the biscuits help Madison and her mom grieve?
3. What made the restaurant reunion the perfect "birthday present"?
4. Why do you think God chose Lily to receive the book next?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. How did Madison's view of God and obedience change from chapter 1 to the end?
2. Which character grew the most in faith, and why?

3. What does the book teach about listening to God's voice in everyday life?

4. How did grace show up in both human relationships and God's relationship with the characters?

5. Which instruction from the book surprised you most, and why?

6. How did helping others change Madison more than it changed the people she helped?

7. What role did family play in helping Lily and the other characters?

8. How did the story show that small acts of obedience can have big ripple effects?

9. Which scene made you laugh or feel the most hopeful?

10. What does the ending teach about passing faith to the next generation?

11. How would you explain "listening to God" to a friend who doesn't go to church?

12. What one habit from Madison's life would you like to try?

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

PeterLDeHaan.com