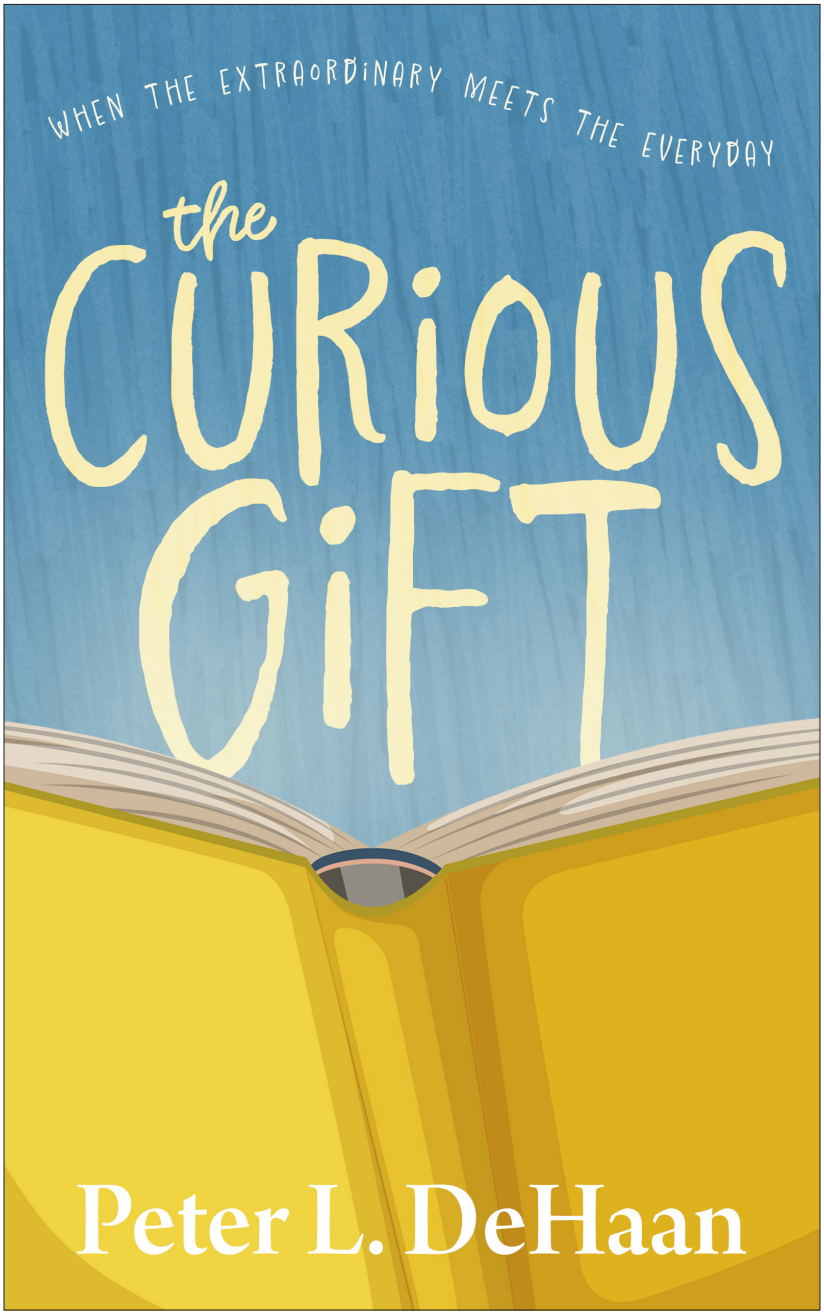


Discussion Guide for

The Curious Gift

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

Madison receives a blank book from her grandmother that later tells her to say yes to Ryan, listen to him at the coffee shop, and bake brownies for her homeroom.

1. Why do you think Gram's note felt so personal to Madison even though the book was empty at first?
2. What does the Bible verse "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5) teach us about obeying instructions we don't fully understand?
3. Why was listening the exact help Ryan needed more than advice?
4. How did baking the brownies open the door to helping Lily in bigger ways?

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

Madison receives detention for bringing a plastic knife, keeps her promise to help Lily, and later brings Lily home after the eviction.

1. How did the consequence of detention actually become a blessing?
2. Why was it meaningful that Madison used her student ID to buy Lily lunch?
3. Which Bible verse about caring for the fatherless or orphans speaks to Lily's situation?
4. How did Madison's parents respond to the unexpected houseguest?

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

Madison is told to eat lunch with Ryan, helps two girls with algebra during detention, sees Michael offer his room to Lily, and helps Ryan with a new look at the mall.

1. Why did the instruction to eat with Ryan feel risky to Madison?
2. What Bible verse encourages us to use our gifts to help others?
3. Why was Michael's offer so generous?
4. How did the shopping trip change Ryan's confidence?

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 must repair misunderstandings with Shea.

1. What surprised Lily most about church?
2. How did the family's rules about phones help everyone focus on relationships?
3. What Bible verse about peacemaking applies when Madison has to "fix the things you broke"?
4. Why was it important for Madison to take responsibility for the rumors?

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

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

1. How did Jason's decision to move beyond friendship feel like an answer to prayer?
2. Why was baking the biscuits both joyful and emotional for Madison?
3. Which Bible verse about reconciliation fits Jason and his dad?
4. Why was it fitting that Madison passed the book to Lily?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. How did Madison grow from a grieving girl into someone who listens for God's leading?
2. Which character's transformation surprised you most, and why?

3. How does the story show that small acts of obedience can change lives?

4. What Bible verse best captures the main message of the book for you?

5. How did grief and joy exist side by side in Madison's journey?

6. What did you learn about friendship, dating, and family through the story?

7. How might you respond if God gave you instructions the way He gave them to Madison?

8. Which relationship in the book most reminded you of God's love?

9. What will you remember longest about this story?

10. How does the ending point readers toward a deeper walk with God?

11. If you could give this book to one person, who would it be and why?

12. What one practical step can you take this week because of what you read?

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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