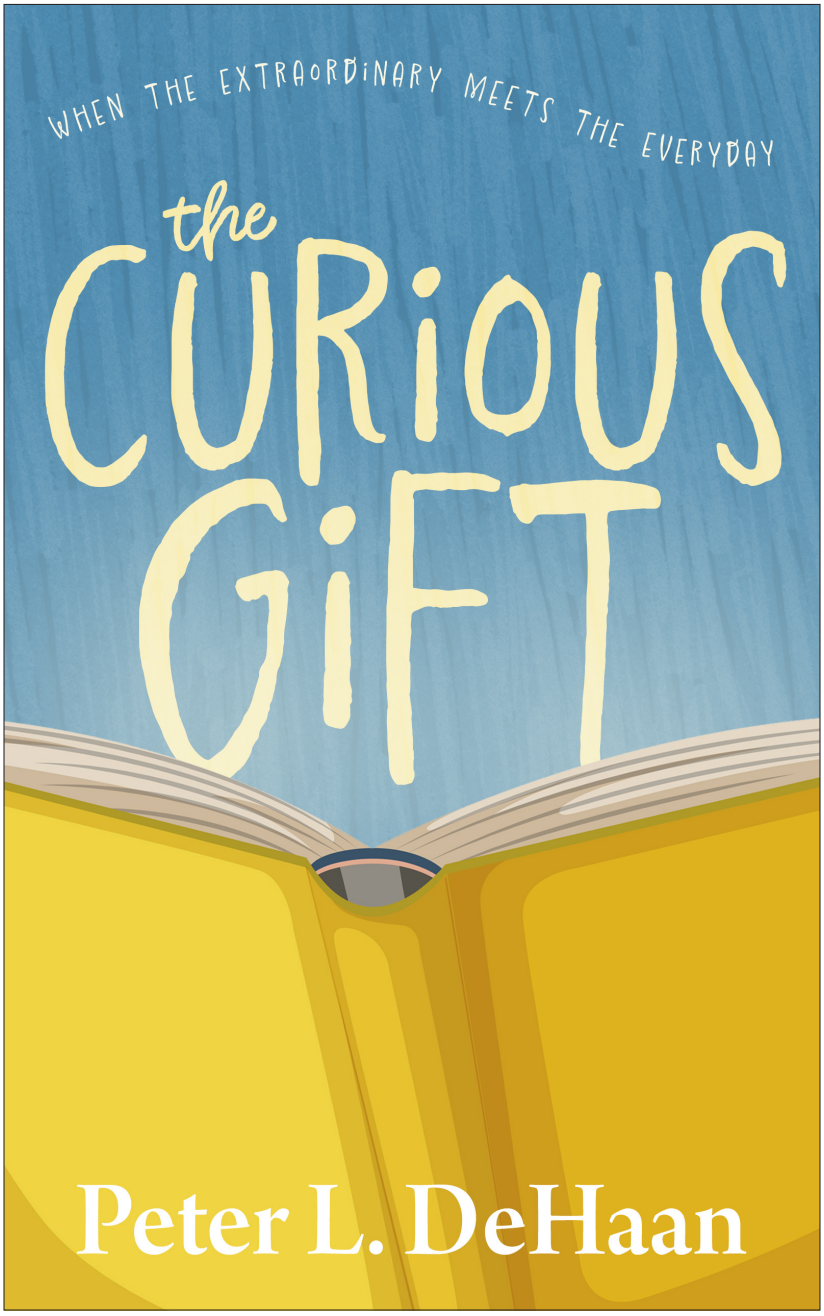


Discussion Guide for

The Curious Gift

by Peter L. DeHaan

For middle 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 Instruction, Listening, and Brownies

Madison receives a blank book from Gram, is told to say yes to a movie with Ryan, then follows new instructions to listen to him and bake brownies for Lily.

1. Why do you think Madison was so upset when she first opened the blank book?
2. What does Gram's note "Be patient. Give it time" teach us about trusting God even when we don't understand?
3. What did Madison learn about truly listening instead of just talking?
4. How did Lily's birthday change because Madison obeyed?

Chapters 5–8: Detention, Lunch, Crisis, and a New Home

Madison serves detention, keeps her promise to help Lily, and later brings Lily home after the eviction.

1. How did Madison's attitude in detention turn a punishment into a chance to help others?
2. Why was it important that Madison kept her promise to Lily even though it cost her something?
3. How did Madison's family show grace to Lily?
4. What does Lily's first family dinner show about the power of prayer and shared meals?

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

Madison helps two girls with algebra in detention, Michael offers his room to Lily, and Madison helps Ryan with a haircut and new clothes.

1. Why do you think God gave Madison the instruction to help with algebra right when she was already busy?
2. Have you ever helped someone with schoolwork and seen it make a difference?
3. Why was Ryan's new look more than just clothes and a haircut?
4. What did the shopping trip show about Ryan's desire for change?

Chapters 13–16: A Job, Church, and Fixing What Was Broken

Lily gets a job and a phone, attends church for the first time, and Madison has to fix a misunderstanding with Shea.

1. How did Lily's job at Citrus City become an answer to prayer?
2. What surprised Lily most about church?
3. How did Madison handle Shea's confrontation with kindness instead of anger?
4. Why is it important to fix broken relationships even when it's uncomfortable?

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

Madison sets up a double date, bakes Gram's biscuits, helps reunite Jason with his dad, and is told to give the book to Lily.

1. How did the double date help Ryan and Shea while also bringing Madison and Jason closer?
2. Why was baking the biscuits such an emotional moment for Madison and her mom?
3. How did Madison feel when she realized she had helped Jason find his dad?
4. Why do you think God chose Lily to receive the book next?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. What is the biggest way Madison grew in her faith during the story?
2. Which character's story touched you most, and why?
3. How does the book show that God can speak in unusual ways?

4. What does the story teach about the difference between being a friend and being a true helper?

5. How did prayer change the outcome for Ryan, Lily, Shea, and others?

6. What role did family play in helping Madison obey God?

7. Which instruction from the book surprised you the most?

8. How does this story show that small acts of obedience can have big results?

9. What did you learn about grace through Lily's story?

10. How can students today listen for God's voice the way Madison did?

11. What does the ending teach about passing faith to the next person?

12. What one lesson from Madison will you try to practice 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 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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