

Curiosity

The Gift of Curiosity

Pastor Justin Orr | June 21, 2026

Thread: Curiosity is a gift and can benefit you in so many ways.

The Bereans *"examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."* **Acts 17:11 NLT**

This is the gold-standard picture of critical-not-cynical curiosity.

So, it begs the question: What is curiosity?

Curiosity is the desire to learn, understand, or explore something. It's what drives you to ask questions, investigate unknowns, and seek out new information or experiences — even when there's no immediate practical benefit.

1 Chronicles 13:3–11 NLT

Enthusiasm can masquerade as worship.

Sincerity isn't the same as obedience. I can be sincerely wrong about something.

The power of curiosity.

- Makes me teachable. Just because I know it doesn't mean I am applying it. Knowledge without curiosity becomes theory that never touches practice.
- Protects me from pride. It helps me admit when I don't know something and keeps me humble. *"With the humble is wisdom."* **Proverbs 11:2 NLT**. Curiosity and humility are basically the same posture wearing different clothes.
- Builds resilience. Curious people tend to see setbacks as interesting problems rather than dead ends. That reframe changes how you respond to failure.
- At work, it makes you a better employee and increasingly valuable over time.
- In family and friendships, it's the foundation of real connection and empathy.
- In marriage, it makes you a student of your spouse.
- With kids, it helps you understand how they are wired.

Familiarity with the Bible is not the same as a relationship with the God of the Bible.

- When God allows pain in your life, curiosity can move you from "Why?" to "What?" and ultimately to trust. The question "Why?" can rob you of hope faster than almost anything I know. Curiosity leads you back to God's character rather than your circumstances.

What kills curiosity?

- Fear of looking stupid
- Familiarity and knowledge—thinking we already know it all
- Ego and pride ("You have nothing to teach me.")
- Anxiety and survival mode
- Impatience ("I need an answer right now.")
- The deep need to conform to the world around us

"Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God." **Romans 12:2 CSB**

Two chapters later, King David got curious.

"Because you Levites did not carry the Ark the first time, the anger of the LORD our God burst out against us. We failed to ask God how to move it properly. So the priests and the Levites purified themselves in order to bring the Ark of the LORD, the God of Israel, to Jerusalem. Then the Levites carried the Ark of God on their shoulders with its carrying poles, just as the LORD had instructed Moses." **1 Chronicles 15:13-15 NLT**

The first time

- They celebrated, but not with reverence or holiness.
- They moved the Ark like the Philistines did, not the way God prescribed.
- Uzzah reached out and touched it.

What David did differently after he got curious

- The Levites (priests) were responsible for moving the Ark.
- They purified themselves before moving the Ark.
- David and the Levites wore white linen, symbolizing purity.
- The Ark was not placed on a new cart. It was carried by the Levites on poles so they would not touch it, just as God instructed.
- Sacrifices were offered in reverence.
- Worship and praise were offered before, during, and after.
- A special tent was prepared for the Ark.

Challenge:

- Get curious about all aspects of your life – start with Jesus and your chair time.
- Explore a belief you hold that you've never actually gone back and tested against scripture.
- Have you mistaken familiarity with God for actual closeness with God in an area of your life?
- Is there a person you've become familiar with that you need to become curious about again?