

Get Out of That Box Team Activation Guide:

It's great to read a book alone, but it's even better to read it with a team! Use this guide to enhance your team's learning and help them move the concepts from theory to reality. As you read and explore together, you'll build shared language and experiences that will help form and shape your culture so you can be the creative people God has called you to be!



Chapter 1- Myth: Only Some People are Creative

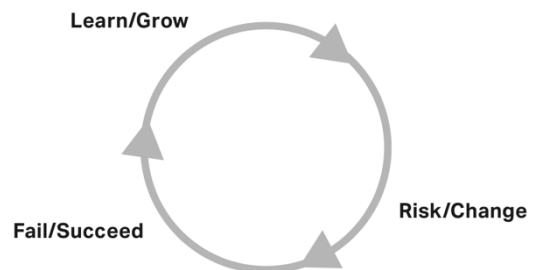
- What has been your view of creativity until this point?
- How does that affect the way you view yourself and your capability?
- If you began to think of yourself as creative, what might be possible?
- Determine your Creativity Quotient in the Appendix on p. 153
 - o Choose one of the "Practice This" activities at the end of the chapter
 - Brain Training
 - Story Time
 - From the Toy Box

Chapter 2- Myth: Creative People are "Artsy"

- Who do you consider to be creative? What makes them "creative" in your opinion?
- As you look at the indicators of creativity on p. 19-22, what creative gifts have you been given?
- Do you feel you're living up to your creative potential?
- How might God be calling you to use your strengths in His service?
 - o Choose one of the "Practice This" activities at the end of the chapter
 - Left Brain/Right Brain Thinkers
 - Point of View

Chapter 3- Myth: Creativity Just Happens by Accident

- How has your creativity been developed or hindered through the years?
- In what way can you practice and increase your capacity for creativity?
- Which of the three stages of the growth cycle is most challenging for you? Why?
 - o Risk/Change
 - o Fail/Succeed
 - o Learn/Grow
- How might increasing your ability to move through the growth process help you be more innovative and creative?
 - o Choose one of the "Practice This" activities at the end of the chapter
 - Opposites Attract
 - All, Nothing and In-Between



Chapter 4- Myth: Creativity and Tradition are in Competition

- Would most people consider your church/ministry traditional or contemporary/modern?
- What do you miss out on by so narrowly defining yourselves by these limiting terms?
- How can you combine elements of tradition with new thoughts and practices to create something timeless and relevant that brings honor and glory to God?
 - o Do the “Practice This” activity at the end of the chapter
 - Building Block Solution

Chapter 5- Myth: Creativity is for Visual Arts, Music Ministry & Children’s Ministry

- Who are the most creative people serving in your church or ministry?
- In what ministry areas do they express their creativity?
- What is the least creative area of your church or ministry?
- How might you infuse the creativity and innovation happening in other ministry areas into areas that are stuck or mired in the past?
- Which element of culture change from p. 36-37 is most needed in your ministry area?
 - o Choose one of the “Practice This” activities at the end of the chapter
 - Community Prayer Walk
 - Context Map

Chapter 6- Fear

- Which element of fear do you struggle with the most?
 - o Fear of Change
 - o Fear of Failure
 - o Fear of Rejection
- What is fear costing your church/ministry?
- Would you characterize your church/ministry as fearful or courageous? Why?
- If fearful, how can you help people release their fear and bravely pursue risk and innovation?
- If courageous, what about your culture invites people to express themselves without fear? How can you protect that element of your culture?
 - o Choose one of the “Practice This” activities within the chapter
 - Draw an Alien
 - Evaluation from all Sides
 - Idea Builder

Chapter 7- Negativity

- Are you a glass half-full or half-empty kind of person? How does that affect the way you view your ability to be creative?
- Which element of negativity is the biggest struggle for you?
 - o Perfectionism
 - o Past Experience

- Thought and Speech
- Where do you see negativity impacting your church/ministry teams?
- What is the cost of allowing negativity to determine your direction?
- When you encounter someone being negative, how might you help them see a new view?
 - Choose one of the “Practice This” activities within the chapter
 - Six Thinking Hats
 - Journaling
 - Worst Case Scenario
 - Disney’s Brainstorming Method: The Dreamer, The Realist, and The Spoiler
 - Set Free
 - Exchanging Negative for Positive
 - Six Impossible Ministry Thoughts
 - Attitude Evaluation

Chapter 8- Limitations

- What are your current ministry limitations?
- How do you feel about the statement, “Limitations clarify our calling?” How does reframing limitations as boundaries help you see things in a new light?
- Experiment with the I can’t, but I can statements by filling in the blanks.
 - I can’t _____ but I can...
 - We don’t have _____ but we do have...
 - My people won’t _____ but I can lead them to...
 - I’ll lose people if _____ but I’m willing to lose people to...
 - This won’t work in my setting: _____; but what would work is...
 - People won’t like it if _____ but God will love it if...
- What are some potential resources you’ve overlooked because you have been too focused on what you don’t have rather than what you do have?
 - Complete the “Practice This” activity located at the end of the chapter:
 - Leveraging Limitations

Chapter 9- Assumptions

- What are some assumptions you tend to make in church/ministry that have an impact on your thinking and decisions?
- How do those assumptions keep you stuck in a box?
- What are some typical trigger words you find yourself saying when you are operating by an assumption?
 - Choose one of the “Practice This” activities at the end of the chapter
 - Uprooting Assumptions
 - Identifying Underlying Assumptions
 - Fact or Fiction?
 - Target Group

Chapter 10- Planting Seeds That Produce Change

- What is the link between personal spiritual growth and organizational growth in your ministry setting?
- Where do you place more emphasis- on personal growth or organizational growth?
- What would it look like to focus on personal spiritual growth that leads to organizational growth?
 - o Choose one of the “Practice This” activities at the end of the chapter
 - Venn Diagram Sorting
 - Upside Down and Inside Out

Chapter 11- Harness the Power of Frustration

- When do you experience frustration in ministry? In life?
- What is motivating your frustration?
- How can your frustration spur you on toward increased impact and help you take creative risks?
 - o Complete the “Practice This” activity located at the end of the chapter:
 - Post-It Challenge

Chapter 12- Embrace Diversity

- Do you have a diverse ministry team?
- If yes, how does that impact your problem-solving and creativity?
- If no, who do you need to include on your teams that would offer diversity in their thinking and experiences?
 - o Choose one of the “Practice This” activities at the end of the chapter
 - Oblique Strategies
 - Expert Forums

Chapter 13- Harness Habits

- How can habits of thinking keep you stuck?
- What habitual thinking patterns are keeping you stuck personally? Organizationally?
 - o Choose one of the “Practice This” activities at the end of the chapter
 - Looking for the Invisible
 - Ministry Blending

Chapter 14- Prioritize Play

- When was the last time you “played?” What did you do? Who did you do it with?
- When was the last time your team “played?”
- How can you create a rhythm of play personally and collaboratively within your ministry team?
 - o Choose one of the “Practice This” activities at the end of the chapter
 - Make a Playlist
 - Idea Exchange

Chapter 15- Define the Problem

- When is a time that your team solved a problem that turned out to be the wrong problem?
- What is the cost to the organization when we rush to solve a problem without clearly defining it?
- What is a problem you are facing right now? Move through the steps of defining and clarifying the actual problem.
 - o Narrow your target
 - o Define the expectation
 - o Name the outcome
- Complete the “Practice This” activity located at the end of the chapter:
 - Travel Up, Down, and All Around

Chapter 16- Get Curious

- On a scale from 1-10, how curious are you about your world? How often do you ask why?
- How would becoming more curious help you become a better problem solver?
 - o Choose one of the “Practice This” activities at the end of the chapter
 - Infusion of Hobbies
 - TV Culture

Chapter 17- Release the Need to Take Credit

- What’s the difference in stewarding ideas and owning them?
- How can owning ideas inhibit our ability to be truly creative?
- How can owning ideas inhibit the ability of teams to be truly collaborative?
 - o Choose one of the “Practice This” activities at the end of the chapter
 - Brain Chain
 - Idea Swap
 - Cyberstorming

Chapter 18- The Power of Pause

- When was a time you regretted an immediate response to a situation?
- What could have been gained through taking a pause?
- Complete the “Practice This” activity located at the end of the chapter:
 - Brainstorming Over Time

Chapter 19- Uncovering Blind Spots

- Who do you allow to speak truth and authenticity into your life?
- What do you need to do to receive this truth in a way that helps you grow, not causes offense?
- Complete the “Practice This” activity located at the end of the chapter:
 - Johari Window

Chapter 20- Physical Environments for Creativity

- What environment is best for enhancing your creativity?
- Take the assessment on p. 169 to explore your personal preference.
- Where do you often hold collaborative sessions? What can you do to make it more conducive for creativity and personal expression?
 - o Choose one of the “Practice This” activities at the end of the chapter
 - Fidget Basket
 - Picture a Solution

Chapter 21- Encourage Collaboration

- How would you rate the effectiveness of your collaboration in your ministry on a scale from 1-10?
- What tips and suggestions listed in this chapter will help you move 1-2 steps closer to 10?
- Complete the “Practice This” activity located at the end of the chapter:
 - Brainwriting

Chapter 22- Inspire Others, Create Hope

- How hopeful are you about the potential and possibility in your ministry area?
- Who are you inspiring?
- Retake the Creativity Quotient Quiz on p. 53 and compare it to the one you took at the beginning. Celebrate your growth and create some additional next step goals to live more fully into your creative potential.