

Journaling & Discussion Questions

Chapter 1 – Your Calling as an Artist in the Kingdom

1.	"What makes you unique?" Ask the Lord for insight into how He uniquely created you
2.	God says He will give us the desires of our heart when we delight ourselves in Him (Psalm
	37:4). What are the desires of your heart?
3.	In terms of creative expression, what are your natural gifts and talents?
1	When you move in those gifts and talents, how do you feel?
٦.	vyhen you move in those girts and talents, now do you reel:

5.	Do you sense God's pleasure in those activities? Have you ever seen Him use you to touch				
	others while doing one of those things?				
6.	What do you do every day, week, month to cultivate your gifts?				
7.	Write about a time when you were affirmed because of your creativity, artistic expression, or				
	uniqueness				

Chapter 2 – Your Spiritual Lineage as an Artist in the Kingdom

1.	How do you respond to God's radical display of grace and restoration toward you after Cain's				
	sin?				
2	What does it mean to you to be filled and skilled?				
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3.	What is the fruit of your life? Your art?				

4.	Are you struggling with some of the same things Cain struggled with?
5	Are you enjoying fruitful creativity or struggling with frustration?
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6	A
ο.	Are you raising up others around you, or are you fearful of not measuring up?

Chapter 3 – Roadblocks to Your Creative Expression

1.	How do you respond to the story of King David at the beginning of the chapter? Does it sound				
	familiar?				
2.	What are some of the roadblocks in your own life?				
3.	How have these roadblocks affected your life, relationships, and creative expression?				
4.	What would your life look like without these roadblocks? Are you willing to start this journey of healing?				

Chapter 4 – Take Out the Garbage

1.	What are some of the ungodly beliefs, thoughts, and lies that have become a part of your				
	everyday thinking? Expose them here by bringing them into the light				
2.	Do you struggle with the voice of the "inner critic?" What does that voice sound like?				
۷,	Do you struggle with the voice of the filmer critic: What does that voice sound like:				
3.	Which Scripture verse stood out as the most applicable promise to your life right now?				
4.	What are some of the ways the Lord is showing you to "take out the garbage" in your own life:				

Chapter 5 – Discover the Father's Heart for You

1.	How do you respond to the father's unconditional love of the son in the story of The Prodigal				
	Son?				
2.	Does your view of God as "Father" match up with the loving father in the story?				
3.	What are the core beliefs you hold about fathers and <u>the</u> Father? How have they affected your life and creative expression so far?				
	ine and creative expression so fair.				
4.	Now that you understand clearly who your Father is and how he feels about you, how does				
	that change your perception of His plan for your life and creative expression?				

Chapter 6 – Release the Dreamer: Co-labor with the Father in the Kingdom

1.	How do you react when you hear that God's desire is for you to be fully alive and yet fully conformed to His image?
2.	What does it mean to you to be conformed to His image as an artist?
3.	What has God put in your heart? What are your dreams? Take a moment and without any inhibition, write down the dreams of your heart.
4.	Take a moment right now and ask the Lord to enlarge your vision, your dreams of what is possible. Take your dreaming a step further; go way outside the box. Ask the Father what He wants to reveal to you, and then write it down. Don't be afraid; it is probably much bigger than you think!

Chapter 7 – Develop Your Unique Prophetic Voice

1.	How do you respond to being uniquely equipped to prophesy the purposes of God in your generation? Does this excite and inspire you or overwhelm you?				
2.	What are some of the ways God speaks to you? Dreams, visions, inspiration while creating? _				
3.	What are the things that make you a unique prophetic voice in the Kingdom?				
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Chapter 8 – Reveal the Testimony of Jesus

1.	Do you relate to the description in Isaiah 44 of artists who give themselves to artistic and				
	creative endeavors that can be totally useless and even dangerous?				
2.	Have you ever felt the pressure to produce "Christian Art" when you sensed the Lord wanted				
	to release a message that may have been more difficult for people to receive?				
3.	How do you walk the balance between artistic expression that is both edifying and challenging				
J.	at the same time?				
4.	How does all matter having memory affect the impact of your artistic expression? Does this change your perspective on your work?				

Chapter 9 – Prospering Artists, not Starving Artists

1.	What are some of the lies that you have believed about God's provision for your life and calling
2.	What results have your ungodly beliefs about money and God's provision produced in your life?
	me:
3.	What is your reaction to God's promise of provision, protection, and favor on your life?

4.	Do you feel like an orphan, a servant, or a son when it comes to God's promise of provision
	for you?
5.	What one scripture is most encouraging to you regarding God's promise of provision?

Chapter 10 – The Promise of Abundance

1.	What are the talents God has given you to serve Him in His Kingdom?
2.	What unique expression of creativity has the Father entrusted to you?
3.	Has God asked you to step out in faith in any area of your life that requires you to trust Him
	for your provision?
4.	What do you believe God for in your life and in your creative endeavors? Come on! Dream a little!
	nttic.

Chapter 11 – Embrace Community

1.	What is your initial response to the call to community? Do you resist or embrace the call?
2.	Where do you see yourself, your art, in the big picture of The Body of Christ? What part has God called you to play?
	God caned you to play:
3.	As one called to war in the heavenlies through inspired creative expression, which of the
	principles of war mentioned earlier do you most identify with? Which is the most challenging
	for you to embrace?

How has God called you to raise up the next generation?
What are some real ways you pursue authentic community among other artists in your circl
of influence?

Chapter 12 – Glory to Glory: The Artist and Spiritual Discipline

1.	Do you naturally embrace spiritual disciplines or lean more toward life on auto-pilot?
2.	How do you respond to the assertion that skill births freedom?
3.	What spiritual disciplines do you currently employ in your daily routine? Which ones do you sense a connection with?
	vvincii ones do you sense a connection with:

4.	Do you view your creative expression as a spiritual discipline? Why or why not?
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5.	Does your creative expression help center you in the Lord so you can hear His voice, or does i
	cause spiritual distraction?

Chapter 13 – Worshipping the Work of Our Very Own Hands

1.	Do you struggle with pride in your artistic works? Take a moment to describe your own journey
	as an artist in the Kingdom?
2.	Do you relate to Lucifer's desire to see himself exalted rather than submitting himself to God's
	plan and authority for his life? Take a moment to explore this within yourself.
3.	Have you ever experienced the cycle of Fear, Pride, and Isolation in your life? Take a moment
	to process your own feelings and experiences here.

4.	How do you feel about co-laboring with Christ in the Kingdom as a joint-heir with Him?
5.	Do you have patterns of pride and self-protection in your life? Stop right now and ask the Lord
	to show you. Once He does, write down what you see and hear. He wants to heal you and
	give you the gift of humility.

Chapter 14 – Close the Gate: The Artist, Temptation & Habitual Sin

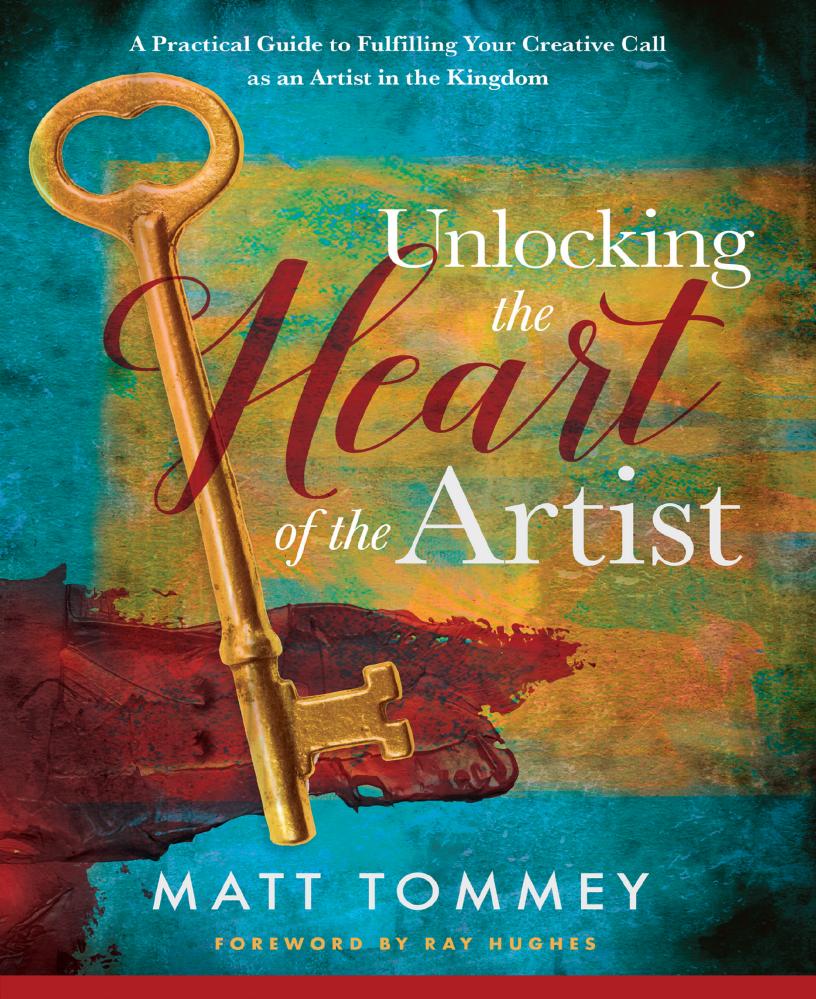
1.	Have you ever dealt with feelings of worthlessness, shame, or fear? Take a moment to talk
	about your struggle here.
2.	What do you really believe about God's desire for your freedom? For example, do you believe
	that He CAN heal you but doesn't WANT to heal you? Explain.
3.	Take a moment to identify the triggers and open gates in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to
	bring light to the situation and reveal truth to your heart.

4.	Who are the 'safe' people in your life? What's your plan to engage them in real accountability in your life?
5.	What are the new pathways that the Lord is revealing to you? Take a moment to list them
	below and then share these with your 'safe' people.

Chapter 15 – Turn Your Heart: Raising Up the Next Generation

1.	Who are the spiritual mothers and fathers in your life who have been 'life-givers' to your
	creative expression?
2.	Do you naturally display the attributes of a Teacher or a Father, as described in this chapter?
3.	As you move into maturity as one called to raise up the next generation, where do you most
	struggle? Authenticity? Transparency? Discipline? Real Relationship? Unconditional love?

4.	Who are the ones God has placed in your circle of influence to mentor and raise up? Wha
	are you doing to actively walk with them in their journey?
5.	Who are the ones God has placed in your life as mothers or fathers in this season to lean upon
	for strength and encouragement? What are you doing to actively walk with them in you
	journey?



Small Group Leader's Guide

Unlocking the Heart of the Artist - Small Group Leader's Guide

Unlocking the Heart of the Artist was initially written as a small group experience for the artists of a

creative community I was leading in Georgia to have a resource to gather around, work through

together and use as a springboard for deeper conversation, creative community and personal

ministry.

To that end, I have made the Journal & Discuss Questions for the book available for free to

download at:

www.MattTommeyMentoring.com/Unlocking

While there is no perfect way to facilitate this book as a small group, I would like to offer the

following format as a starting point. It's born much fruit for us and I pray it will be a source of life

for your group as well.

Timeframe:

2 hours sessions over a period of 12 -15 Weeks

Location:

A creative, inspiring and intimate space conducive to worship, discussion and

ministry.

Sample Meeting Schedule:

6:00 pm Meet & Greet

Ever met an artist that was on time? Me either. Use this 'gathering time' for sharing recent art

projects, fellowship and catching up with each other.

6:15 pm Group Worship & Prayer

This is a great time to let emerging worshippers take the reins and lead the group in worship and

prayer. Most of the time, acoustic worship (guitars, djembe's, keyboard, etc) work great in a small

group atmosphere. If you need to use mp3's, do it!

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6:40 pm Check-In & Testimony

Go around the room and ask for testimonies of what God has been speaking to them during the past week regarding the most recent chapter, their journaling, creative date or other applicable experiences. Celebrate breakthroughs and support each other in challenging situations. This is not a time to counsel or give advice – just listen.

This is a great time to incorporate a brief testimony from an artist each week focused on their creative journey so far, walk with the Lord, why they are participating in the group and what they hope to get out of it. I always encourage artists who are giving testimonies to bring an example of their work to share with the group.

7:00 pm The Lesson

The facilitator should give a brief overview of the chapter, using the section headings as an easy springboard. Of course, everyone has thoroughly read each chapter, but just in case there's anyone who's not been able to read, make sure everyone is on the same page.

Allow ample time for discussion of the topic along with personal testimonies in order to engage each group member. Encourage everyone's participation and watch out for those who may want to either dominate or fade away into the background.

7:45 pm Prayer & Personal Ministry

The most meaningful time of every meeting will be your time of prayer and personal ministry toward each other. Typically, the Lord will spotlight issues in every person's heart. I have often used the concept of a 'hot seat' in the middle of the room, where the person or people wanting prayer can sit, allowing everyone else to gather around and lay hands on them.

Let the Holy Spirit lead you during these special times. It's a great time to encourage participants to actively listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit and to encourage one another in the Lord with scripture and encouraging words from the Lord.

A "Weekend Away" Leader's Guide

There's something about just getting away from the day-to-day routine of life and experiencing the solitude and refreshment that only a spiritual retreat can offer. One of the best ways to enable your creative community to grow together in the context of reading Unlocking the Heart of the Artist is to do a "Weekend Away". Choose a place that's comfortable, refreshing, quiet and conducive to the format you feel is best.

By all means, let the Holy Spirit lead you as you plan your weekend away. Make it special and a weekend to remember. Don't over plan. Leave room to 'breathe'. Some pieces I've found to be life-giving over the years are:

- Group Worship
- Solo Experiences for Meditation & Creativity
- Teaching & Discussion Sessions
- Visual Journaling
- Campfires, Nature Hikes, Labyrinth Prayers
- Times of Individual Affirmation from the Group
- Drag & Brag allowing artists to bring recent work and share
- Campfires, S'mores and Singalongs