

Book Discussion Questions

1. What does breakthrough mean to you?
2. Where does your team most need a breakthrough right now?
3. What are you doing to encourage breakthrough thinking on your team? What else can you do?
4. Under what circumstances is your team most primed for breakthrough? What pressures do you and your team face that discourage breakthrough thinking?
5. Based on the “Barriers to Breakthrough” study insights, can you identify any obstacles that may be hindering your team’s ability to innovate? Discuss potential solutions to overcome these barriers.
6. In your own experience, how have psychologically safe environments contributed to individuals sharing their ideas and breakthrough thinking? How do you know whether your team environment is safe and supportive for everyone to lean into all of the breakthrough principles?
7. What tensions do you see between the various breakthrough principles?
8. Out of the principles discussed in the book, which one do you find the most important for fostering breakthrough thinking in your industry or field, and why?
9. Share an example from your own work where applying the silence your cynic principle proved to be effective in engaging team members and stimulating creativity.
10. When might applying the strip away everything principle be most important for your own team? What beliefs or orthodoxies could be getting in the way of your own breakthrough?
11. Discuss the importance of living with the problem in understanding the challenges faced by your team and developing innovative solutions.
12. How does the concept of checking your edge in the book contribute to breakthrough thinking? Can you share any examples from your personal or professional experiences where this approach has been beneficial?
13. The book emphasizes the importance of enlisting a motley crew. In your experience, how have diverse perspectives from different industries or disciplines influenced the innovation process in a positive way?
14. In what ways has the get real principle been applied in your own work or team? How has this approach impacted the problem-solving process?
15. Considering the make a mess principle, how has challenging conventional approaches to problem-solving led to more creative or innovative solutions in your field?
16. When was the last time you noticed people playing “nice” in your organization? How might have being more honest contributed to a better outcome?
17. How have you or your team effectively dialed up the drama or used sensory elements to heighten the dramatic impact of projects, and how has this approach engaged team members in the pursuit of breakthrough thinking?
18. Discuss some practical ways to apply the make change principle in your work to ensure that the changes made are meaningful and impactful.