

Sample 2 INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Author of *Art for the Soul: Growing Your Faith Through Creativity*

for Kelly Brinkmann

1. Tell us about yourself.

I'm a working potter, artist, and author. I also share spoken messages while making live wheel-thrown pottery at conferences and events for women. I earned a background in art with a BA in studio art in painting while going to school on a writing scholarship. You'll find me teaching art in my community and discipling women in faith.

2. Why did you write your book and who is it for?

Art for the Soul: Growing Your Faith Through Creativity is for women who may be new to their faith journey or who struggle to get traction understanding what a Christian life can look like. It reads like a talk over coffee with a friend. Each chapter starts with a story - often from the art studio or travels- and links it to a biblical lesson that leads to an example of application in our own lives.

3. Where did the idea come from?

The book was birthed from leading women to study the bible more deeply and helping them apply what they were learning in daily living. It's for women who feel unsettled wondering if they are doing enough or if they can be loved in the unique way God made them as they move to learn about him more.

We know that we are to be changed by God's word, but we first have to understand it, spend time with it, and digest new truths before we can use them in our lives.

4. Share an example you use when teaching others in person.

For example, reading in Thessalonians that we are to pray without ceasing can feel daunting and so overwhelming that we can feel like we don't even know where to start. It seems so far off and unrelatable, but by looking at parables, or stories with lessons, we can begin to see what living that could look like in action. We can begin to understand that walking in the Spirit by praying all day is a whole different way of operating when we pray while doing daily tasks like laundry and asking God to clothe us in his nature, or while we are driving, we can to ask the Lord to lead us in the ways we should go. By looking at creative ways we learn, we can better understand Biblical truths.



5. Are you talking just to artists, because I'm not an artist.

Art for the Soul shows that learning the Bible happens with all learning styles. Each of us has been created by a creative God who tells us to love him with all of our heart, soul, and mind, and that includes the way we study his word.

Women see relationships between experiences and object lessons and those can link to biblical truths. We learn better and more deeply when we dig our hands deep into lessons to better understand how God works and who he is.

6. How will readers be impacted by the lessons you share? How will their lives be different?

Women will learn how to look for God at work. They will learn to look for his beauty and slow lessons tucked into moments throughout the day. In the book, they will find a mentor in a sister in faith sharing examples of what faith looks like beyond Sunday morning. They will see how to fold God and his principles into all the other days of the week.

7. You keep talking about hands-on learning, so does the book have any unexpected features or projects?

I included a lot of extra features in the book for readers:

- Artist epigrams are included at the beginning of each chapter to provide perspective and an introduction to art history
- Hand-drawn elements are included to add an understanding of pottery used in illustrations
- The book in print (not the e-book being released 10-1-23) include a fun flipbook feature to include on the bottom pages so readers could see a pot being formed on the pottery wheel
- Two to three "Reflection and Response" questions are included at the end of each chapter to invite readers to pause and reflect on what they just read and how the Lord may be calling them to take action in their own lives. The book itself provides space to journal and write at the end of each chapter so you're not flipping from book to journal and back again.
- Perhaps my favorite extra features are the creative activities that connect lessons in each chapter to a hands-on activity. Readers are given a private link to downloads, printables, activities, poetry, and more to take the lessons one step further.



This icon at the beginning of each chapter illustrates a lesson about the fruits of the Spirit in the book.

8. What has the response been from readers?

I've been blown away by their response and engagement with the book. Readers have sent photos of their copies with highlights, drawings, taped photos, and lots of journaled notes throughout the book. They are still posting reviews on Amazon and sending me notes that I post on my social accounts, @officialkellybrinkmann. Please share your own photos and reviews so I can see them!

9. Could groups of women or book clubs use the book?

Sure, I've had several people reach out and tell me their Sunday school class or book club is using it together. They like that it includes some shorter chapters to make the content easier to digest, plus as a group leader, the "Reflect and Respond" questions and creative activities at the end of each chapter provide an engaging and ready-made study book that is great for individuals or groups.

One group used a downloadable printable activity from a chapter to outline their own faith story including their life before Jesus, coming to know him, and how their life was different afterwards. It was a practical activity they could do together as they talked about sharing their faith with others as a first step to show someone how Jesus has changed them personally.

10. I know you're a speaker, too, so do you use some messages from your speaking events in your book? And do you really bring your pottery wheel with you when you speak to groups?

Yes, God has outlined some stories I share in person and in the book to encourage and teach about him. Readers get a bit more background about stories I share in the book, but women who see me speak in person see me throwing clay on the pottery wheel while I talk to illustrate the messages, so both experiences offer something different.

Ministry leaders and conference directors often contact my team when they are looking for something unique to really connect and resonate with women. When I speak live, I provide a support package of professional photos of pottery making from my own studio to give women a sneak peak of what they will experience, plus hand-made drawings and downloads for participants to engage in the message.

I lead an exercise to reclaim clay as spiritual practice that looks like reverse communion. Women claim a piece of dried out clay representing their efforts to overcome obstacles in their lives in their own strength by holding it tightly in fear, distrust, shame, etc. and after the spoken message, they can choose to get up from their seat and give those struggles to God. They put them in the reclaim bucket while taking the first step of letting go of the fears that hold them back and asking God to start to work on their behalf. It's always a really moving experience for women and I'm honored to be a part of it. The whole process of reclaiming clay is unpacked more in the book, so listeners can chew on the concept more as they read it.

11. Ok, I have to learn more about that. Where can listeners find copies of Art for the Soul?

It's available at bookstores and retailers everywhere, including Amazon at [KellyBrinkmann.com/book](https://www.kellybrinkmann.com/book). If you're like me and you like to support local bookstores, I've included an easy link to my local bookstore and [Bookshop.org](https://www.Bookshop.org), a website used to support local bookstores everywhere.

12. Where can women connect with you or learn more about you?

My website, [KellyBrinkmann.com](https://www.KellyBrinkmann.com) has info, photos, and links to my social media channels. Listeners to your podcast can grab a free downloadable gift right now when they subscribe to my newsletter. I send more stories like what's included in the book along with insights, bible lessons, and printables once a month as an ongoing treat for readers and hands-on learners.



Show notes to share:

To learn more about bringing Kelly, the author and artist, to your upcoming event, download her Experience Guide outlining her spoken messages on her website. You will also find links to get her first book, *Art for the Soul: Growing Your Faith Through Creativity*, at [KellyBrinkmann.com/book](https://www.KellyBrinkmann.com/book).

Producer Notes:

Find Kelly's complete media kit at [KellyBrinkmann.com/media](https://www.KellyBrinkmann.com/media).

Contact:

Kelly Brinkmann
KellyB@KellyBrinkmann.com
Studio phone: 417-343-6873