

**JSH 1:15-20** – Dawson is an atheist, but he's also a really nice guy. The two of you hang out in the same group, and he's always been respectful of your beliefs. One day, while the two of you are eating lunch, there's a lull in the conversation that makes it possible for you to hear the people at the table next to you discussing God. You both stay quiet until they stand up to leave, and then you say, "Go ahead, tell me what you're thinking." Dawson laughs and says, "Everyone has a right to believe whatever they want; I just don't get how you can base your entire life on a being that neither you nor anyone else in the HISTORY OF THE WORLD has actually seen. It just doesn't make sense."

**D&C 1:30** - Last December, your family got together to celebrate Christmas. On Sunday, while everyone was getting ready for church, you noticed your older brother was just sitting around. "Better hurry up," you warn, "Church starts in 20 minutes!" Sheepishly, your brother says, "actually. . . after doing some research, I've kind of changed my mind on the church, and I don't really associate with it anymore." When you ask what he means, he says, "Look, I don't want to ruin church for you; I know the church does a lot of good things and helps a lot of people. But the more I study about the church's history and all of the teachings and doctrines that have changed, the harder it is for me to believe that it's true. If God really inspires the prophet, why does the church keep having to make changes to teachings and policies?"

**D&C 1:37-38** – During a Sunday School zoom call, the teacher, Sis Behunin, mentions President Nelson's invitation to "hear Him" and begins asking students how they "hear Him" in their lives. Several people give responses before Sis. Behunin invites Kimber to share (even

though she didn't volunteer). Kimber hesitates a little, then says, "Well, to be honest, I kind of struggle to hear Him, not sure why I just have a hard time with it." The teacher looks uncomfortable and says, "You should pray about that." Kimber sighs and rolls her eyes a little. When Sis. Behunin asks what's wrong; she explains, "I do pray, and I don't feel like God answers. Definitely nothing like Joseph Smith had!" Sis Behunin explains that the Lord answers through the Spirit most of the time, but Kimber doesn't seem satisfied. "Maybe he does send the Spirit, but I have a hard time understanding The Spirit, let alone trusting my interpretation enough to act on it," she says. "I'm not trying to be difficult; I just wish there was a way that I could get messages from God that were clearer," she says.

**D&C 6:36** – Janessa is a senior and is becoming more and more aware that her relatively comfortable and safe way of life is coming to an end. One day while talking with her, you ask her about her plans after graduation. Immediately you can see the stress begin to set in. "I really don't know what I'm going to do, I've decided I'm basically afraid of life," she says with a chuckle. "Going to college sounds scary; going on a mission sounds scary; dating someone that is thinking about marriage is scary; it's just all scary!" You nod your head in support, and she concludes, "I don't know, maybe it's not all bad; I guess being afraid of the future is what helps you make good choices, right?"

**D&C 8:2-3** – One day, while driving home from school, you get what you think might be a prompting to go by the house of a ward member and ask how they're doing. As you continue to think about it, you justify that "It was just a weird thought I was having, not a prompting." As the

day goes on, you can't stop thinking about it. You keep trying to understand why you would get a prompting like that and whether what you felt was actually a prompting or not. You try to recreate the experience by praying, but you don't really feel anything. Now, a few hours later, you feel a terrible combination of confused, frustrated, and guilty.

What are some sources you could turn to figure out if what you experienced was a prompting?

**D&C 13:1** – Kelly is a pretty close friend and has been for a long time. Recently she began spending a lot of time alone with her boyfriend and ended up making some bad choices. As you talk with her, it's clear that Kelly feels terrible about what she's done and wants to fix it. Still, she's pretty nervous to talk to her bishop. "I mean, I'm still a virgin, so I'm not sure I really need to go talk to him. It just sounds soooo uncomfortable, and I'm not really sure how talking to him is going to make it any better anyways, you know?"

**D&C 18:10-11** – It's been a rough year for Katie. Her parents decided to get a divorce about six months ago, and it seems like all they do is fight with each other. About that same time she started dating her boyfriend, who she's learned to rely on to get through what's going on at home. Unfortunately, when she began spending all her time with him, she lost most of her close friends. Now, her boyfriend has dumped her, and she feels completely and entirely alone. "I'm unlovable," she thinks as she listens to her parents fight. Alone in her room, she mutters out loud: "No one cares about me, and no one ever will."

**D&C 18:15-16** – Darin is a sharp kid with a good testimony. He's also an excellent programmer. Recently, Darrin received a job offer from his dream employer to begin working for them right out of high school. In talking with the employer, Darin explains: "This is really a dream come true for me! I plan to serve a two-year mission for my church after I graduate, but if the offer still stands, I'd love to work for you when I return!" As soon as he announces his plans, the recruiter looks uncomfortable. "Look," he says, "You're a great programmer, but by the time you spend two years doing your little mission thing, the technology will be completely different, and your skills will be outdated. I like you, but if this is really your dream, you're going to have to make it your priority. I can't hold the job."

In talking with you about the predicament, Darin explains, "I've always felt like I could really make a mark as a programmer. Maybe it's not that big a deal if I serve a mission. I mean, very few people get opportunities like this, and I feel like I'd be a little ungrateful to turn it down. Besides, it's not like you're a bad person if you don't serve a mission. I know lots of good people who didn't serve. It's not like it's a requirement for the Celestial Kingdom or anything."

**D&C 19:16-19** – One day in seminary, the teacher gives a pretty heavy lesson on repentance. After the class, as you're walking back to the school with Brayden, he sarcastically quips, "Well, that was fun!" You both chuckle a bit, and he goes on, "That guy needs to chill out a little. He was making a pretty big deal out of some pretty small stuff. Maybe some forgot to tell him that we all make mistakes, and God loves us anyway! Pretty sure we're gonna be fine in the end no matter what."

**D&C 21:4-6** – Nathan has been struggling with his testimony a lot recently. He wants to believe in the gospel but doesn't feel like he sees the blessings in his life. About a week ago, he went to his bishop for help. When his bishop found out that he wasn't doing much praying or scripture study, he challenged him to do better and even made him some promises about what would happen if he did. Nathan took the challenge seriously and hasn't missed a day this week. However, despite reading for seven straight days, he doesn't feel like he's received the blessings the bishop promised, let alone received a full testimony of the gospel. Frustrated, he decides that the bishop's counsel didn't work and begins slipping back into his old habits.

**D&C 29:10-11** – Every general conference, you listen to President Nelson stand up and speak with excitement and enthusiasm about the future. Frankly, you don't get it. Whether it's politics, war, abortion, climate change, racism, abuse, discrimination, or something else, it's hard to be optimistic about the future. "Why is he so happy and positive?" you wonder. "Not only are we losing ground in the battle of good and evil, there's no sign that it's going to get better any time soon!" you say to yourself.

**D&C 42:11** – Dan is a lifelong member of the church and prides himself on understanding deep doctrines. One day at church, during a meeting with the adults, your friend asks a pretty challenging question. After the class, Dan approaches her and thanks her for her question. He then invites her to come to a meeting at his house. "Church is great, but there's a lot of things that just can't be said here. I lead a group that explores the more advanced stuff that the church can't make official statements about. I think it'd really help you get some of the answers that are hard

to get here at church. We meet tonight; I'd love to see you there." As he walks away, your friend turns to you and says, "that seems interesting, but I don't know, what do you think?"

**D&C 49:15-17** – While serving a mission in Central America, you meet Jose and Julia Martinez.

They quickly embrace the gospel and agree to be baptized at the end of the month.

Unfortunately, when you get to the lesson on marriage, you learn that Jose and Julia are not married. When you explain that they will need to marry before they can be baptized, the couple seems frustrated. "We've been together for 14 years," says Jose, "We have three kids and own a house together. We love each other! Why does it make any difference if we have a piece of paper from the government saying that we're married?"