

## **“What do you think?”**

Finally—you and a close friend have found the space in both your calendars to sit down and catch up. It’s been too long! You have a mental list of all the things you want to share: updates on family, the situation at work... or, the difficulties in your family, and the stress level at work—*maybe*. Maybe you’ll get to those things.

Over a long meal you find yourself explaining that complicated decision you’re facing in your career, or admitting a struggle with someone at home. Your friend listens carefully, giving you undivided attention. But they might not speak, until you say something like this:

“So... what do you think?”

And then you listen.

After you’ve talked about your own life for a while, you realize you’re a little hazy on what your friend is doing these days. Is he still at the same job? Does she have big plans for the summer? How are the kids? Your friend matters to you, and so you put your own concerns aside to ask:

“So... what are you up to?”

And then you listen.

Today, as you sit down with Jesus, make sure that some questions are a part of your conversation. Right here, as you would with that friend you haven’t seen in a while, catch Jesus up on what’s new with you. Tell him what’s on your mind; what’s exciting, and what’s difficult; what’s going well, and what’s barely working. And then ask him: “So... what do you think?” and listen.

And as you would with a friend, make a point of asking Jesus what *he’s* up to—and listen. Let Jesus surprise you—with his wisdom, with his empathy, or with something he puts on your heart or brings to your mind. This might be a scripture verse, or a person, or an image, or a sense of peace or anticipation.

*And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” Luke 9:35*

We’re good at giving updates and uploading our highlights. But don’t walk away from this table as the friend who did all the talking. Make sure you’ve made space to ask, and to listen—because these are the spaces in which you will be reassured, encouraged, challenged, and surprised.