

What You Can Say. . .

The following suggestions are not word-for-word statements to make, but rather a reflection of a heart attitude you should have in reaching out to your hurting person.

	DO SAY	DON'T SAY
At a funeral	I'll always remember... I'll come by with dinner tonight.	He's so much better off in heaven. If there's anything I can do, call.
A baby died	I know how much being a mother means to you.	You can always have another one. Be thankful you have Jenny. At least you never got to know it.
Divorce	The future must seem frightening. I'll stay close. I'm sure this is a lonely time for you--let's have lunch.	I never liked the way he treated you. There are two sides to every story.
Legal crisis	It's not important what happened. I just want you to know that I care.	Will you lose everything? Tell me how it happened.
Handicapped child	She has beautiful eyes. She is so loving and precious.	What are you going to do with her? If you'd taken better care of yourself, this wouldn't have happened.
Elderly parent	I know how much you love her, I'm sure you're doing the right thing.	How could you put your own mother in such a place?
Loss of home	I've been a part of some very beautiful memories here.	Remember our home is really in heaven.
Friend moving	I've seen what special friends you are. I know you'll miss each other.	Well, you can always write.
Pet dies	I know she was important to	It's only a dog!

	your family. Sometimes this brings back other sad feelings.	You can always buy a new kitten.
During terminal illness	How are you feeling about what you are facing? I'll take you to your next doctor's appointment.	I know a lady who had the same thing... Won't you be glad to be with the Lord?
After death of terminally ill	Even though he needed a lot of your time, I know you'll miss his company.	It must be such a relief now that it's over.
Death of a spouse	I know how much he meant to you, and how you'll miss him.	You were so lucky to have him for 30 years.
Loss of a body part	I'm sure this will take a lot of adjustment. I'll be with you every step of the way.	At least you still have your mind. Be glad it wasn't worse.