

## *Bringing Hope*

*In each of these situations, your friend is facing either a loss or an uncertain future because things in her life haven't gone as she envisioned they would. Choose one of the following scenarios and imagine yourself in this situation. How would you bring Biblical hope to your "friend"?*

1. Your friend from school calls you in distress. She's failing her math class for the second time and she's not sure what the future holds. "I don't know why this keeps happening", she says, "I thought going to school was what I was supposed to be doing, but I keep failing this class, so now I'm not sure". She's struggling because she has always dreamed of marriage and a family, but there is no relationship right now. With the failure of this class, she is more confused than ever about what she should be doing with her life. "What can I do or say?" you think to yourself, "I'm in a similar situation myself!"
2. You're having coffee in Starbucks with a lady from your caregroup. She's always been a devoted mom, serving her family, encouraging her children in their education and spiritual life. Now it seems as if her children are no longer interested in spiritual things. "They used to love to come to church and youth group, or at least I thought they did!" She sighs, "What did my husband and I do wrong? When they were toddlers, it all seemed so simple with the Bible stories and sing-along tapes! Were all my efforts a waste of time?"
3. You see a single friend at church and remember it has been a while since you've seen her, so you greet her warmly, asking how she's been. She admits she hasn't been to church lately; she's been too tired to do much of anything except go to work and come home. As you talk, you recall that she had been engaged to be married a few years back and this was broken off. Her friends are all married now. She says, "I feel so lonely, I'm not motivated to come to church, I feel discouraged!"
4. This week you've received news that your daughter (or sister) has been diagnosed with a chronic illness. You both realize this condition will bring about significant changes in her life and affect her ability to participate in many activities, perhaps even mean the death of a vision she has had for her future. In her eyes, the news of these new limitations means a bleak future.

**Notes:**