Exercise

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the story, then answer the three questions as an INDIVIDUAL first; then, in small groups, discuss your answers and compare your answers. Then, during the small group discussion, see if you may reach a consensus as a group.

AN ANCIENT TALE

Long ago, in an ancient kingdom, there lived a princess who was very young and very beautiful. The princess, recently married, lived in a large and luxurious castle with her husband, a powerful and wealthy lord. The young princess was not content, however, to sit and eat strawberries by herself while her husband took frequent and long journeys to neighboring kingdoms. She felt neglected and soon became quite unhappy. One day, while she was alone in the castle gardens, a handsome vagabond rode out of the forest bordering the castle. He spied the beautiful princess, quickly won her heart and carried her away with him.

Following a day of dalliance, the young princess found herself ruthlessly abandoned by the vagabond. She then discovered that the only way back to the castle led through the enchanted forest of the wicked sorcerer. Fearing to venture into the forest unaccompanied, she sought out her kind and wise godfather and asked his assistance in returning home before her husband returned. The godfather, however, surprised and shocked at her behavior, refused forgiveness, and denied her any help.

Discouraged but still determined, the princess disguised her identity and sought the help of the noblest of all the kingdom's knights. After hearing the sad story, the knight pledged his unfailing aid – for a modest fee. But alas, the princes had no money, so the knight rode away to save other damsels.

The beautiful princess had no one else from who she might seek help and decided to brave the great peril alone. She followed the safest path she knew, but when she was almost through the forest, the wicked sorcerer spied her and caused her to be devoured by the fire-breathing dragon.

1. Who is most responsible for the death of the princess? Why?

2. Who is the next most responsible? Why?

3. Who is the least responsible? Why?

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