

## **CHAPTER 3 CLASS HANDOUTS**

**Note: Your instructor may ask you to download, print out, and/or e-mail the following class handouts for this chapter.**

**THE PARABLE**

**THE PARABLE EXERCISE: INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPANTS**

**THE PARABLE EXERCISE: REFLECTIVE ANALYSIS**

**VALUE ORIENTATION EMPHASES**

**INTERACTIVE PROBES FOR “TRANSMITTING INFORMATION...”**

## THE PARABLE

**Rosemary** is a young woman about 21 years old. For a long time she has been engaged to a young man named **Hernando** and she is coming from a great distance to meet him for their scheduled wedding. The problem she faces is that between her and her betrothed there lies a river. No ordinary river, mind you, but a deep, wide river infested with hungry crocodiles.

Rosemary ponders how she can cross the river. She thinks of a man who has a boat, whose name is **Sven**. She approaches Sven and asks him to take her across the river. Sven replies, "Yes, I'll take you across the river if you'll spend the night with me."

Shocked at this offer, she turns to another acquaintance, **Lee Pai**, and tells him her story. Lee Pai responds by saying, "Poor Rosemary, I understand your problem, but I don't see how I can help. It's really your problem, not mine."

Rosemary, in desperation, decides to return to Sven, and spends the night with him. In the morning Sven takes her across the river. She completes her journey and arrives in time.

Her reunion with Hernando is warm, but on the evening before they are to be married, Rosemary feels compelled to tell Hernando how she succeeded in getting across the river. Hernando responds by saying, "I can't believe you would do such a thing. I wouldn't marry you if you were the last woman on earth." And he banishes her as a soiled woman.

Finally, at her wits' end, Rosemary turns to our last character, **Seiichi**. He listens to her story and says, "What a terrible thing to happen. Rosemary, I don't love you, but I will marry you." And that's all we know of the story.

## THE PARABLE EXERCISE: INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPANTS\*

1. Write down, in rank order, the character of whose behavior you MOST APPROVE to LEAST APPROVE, plus a brief sentence explaining your first choice, second choice, etc.
2. Split into groups of four or five. Each group member should take turns to share his or her first choice, second choice, then third choice, etc. Probe each other for the reasoning behind the rank-order decision-making process.
3. Discuss and arrive at a group *consensus* of the rank-order choices. One member of the group should be responsible to record group choices and report back to the entire class.

### Individual Rank-Order Choices

MOST APPROVE: 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

LEAST APPROVE: 5. \_\_\_\_\_

\*Source: This exercise is adapted from W. Weeks, P. Pederson, and R. Brislin (1979). *A Manual of Structured Experiences for Cultural Learning*. LaGrange Park, IL: Intercultural Network. Prepared by Stella Ting-Toomey.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**THE PARABLE EXERCISE: REFLECTIVE ANALYSIS**

1. On the individual level, who was your top-ranked choice? What values were you defending? Who was your bottom-ranked choice? What values were you rejecting?
2. Where did you learn your cultural/personal values? Identify some influential sources.
3. Did you change your rankings to the group consensus rankings wholeheartedly? Explain your decision or dilemma.
4. Recommend 2–3 constructive ways to understand your own values and/or other people's values mindfully.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**VALUE ORIENTATION EMPHASES:** What value orientation emphases are embedded in the following list of statements or proverbs?

1. The person who has achieved success has lived well, laughed often, and loved much.

Value emphasis:

2. The person who stands alone excites our imagination.

Value emphasis:

3. One finger cannot lift a pebble.

Value emphasis:

4. We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.

Value emphasis:

5. Walk lightly in the spring; Mother Earth is pregnant.

Value emphasis:

6. One arrow can be broken easily, but three arrows—bundled together—cannot be broken lightly.

Value emphasis:

7. Sour, sweet, bitter, and pungent—all must be tasted.

Value emphasis:

8. In youth, we learn; however, it is really in old age that we finally understand.

Value emphasis:

9. If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow.

Value emphasis:

10. When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.

Value emphasis:

