

NEWS YOU CAN USE

SUSPECT'S FRIENDS ACCUSED OF COVER-UP

BOSTON—When three classmates of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev recognized him in an FBI photo, they allegedly took steps to help him. After Tsarnaev texted “come to my room and take whatever you want,” the friends discovered a backpack with emptied-out fireworks. They “started to freak out,” according to affidavits, and threw away the backpack because they didn’t want Tsarnaev “to get into trouble.”

There’s no evidence the friends were involved in the attack, but now they face felony charges, including obstruction of justice. About a month before the explosions, Tsarnaev apparently told two of them he could make a bomb.

Sources: *CNN.com, USAToday.com*

Questions: If these friends are convicted, what type of punishment do you think they deserve? What might motivate people to protect someone this way, despite strong evidence of guilt? Think of a time a friend has fudged the truth for you, whether voluntarily or through coercion: How did that affect your relationship?



Jane Flavell Collins / Associated Press

Describe what lengths you’ve been willing to go to help a friend who’s in trouble? How might the friend’s apparent innocence or guilt affect your decision-making? To what extent, if any, would you compromise your morals if the alternative was losing a valued friend? Explain.

How well do you think you know your peers? What “red flags” catch your attention, and when might you alert someone about concerns?

Scripture links: 1 Samuel 18:1-3; Job 6:14; Proverbs 18:24; and 1 Corinthians 15:33-34. ●