



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 3: Compromised

Suggested Week of Use: June 19, 2022

Core Passage: 1 Kings 11:1-13

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### News Story Summary

For the first time in three years, the Scripps National Spelling Bee was live and in person earlier this month. After being cancelled in 2020 and going virtual in 2021, some 234 spellers from across the country (and even some Americans who live in other countries) earned the right to spell for more than \$50,000 in prizes. In addition to the standard spelling drill typically associated with the Bee, preliminary rounds included vocabulary definitions to whittle down the numbers. In the finals, participants also faced a new “lightning round” where they spelled as many words as possible in 90 seconds. Event organizers wanted to increase the chances of a single winner, especially after they ran out of words and eight people tied for first place in 2019. This year, Texas eighth grader Harini Logan took the crown by spelling 22 words in the lightning round, compared to 15 by runner-up Vikram Raju.

For more about this story, search the phrase “Scripps National Spelling Bee.”

### Focus Attention

To supplement **FOCUS ATTENTION**, encourage the group to share their experiences with spelling bees growing up. **Ask:** *What was the most difficult word you had to spell?* Discuss the pressure students must face in a situation where one wrong letter can make all the difference. **Say:** *The slightest slip-up can end the competition. That’s a lot of pressure.* Point out that perfection is a tough standard because we all make mistakes. Emphasize that as God’s people, we aren’t judged by our mistakes, but by how we respond to those mistakes. Share that even the wisest man who ever lived made mistakes, but he compounded those mistakes by failing to respond properly.

### Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, recall the earlier conversation about spelling bees. **Ask:** *How can spellers prepare for the pressure of that experience?* Discuss responses. Point out that preparation is huge for something like the Bee, but it’s even more important for avoiding spiritual compromise. Encourage the group to consider ways they can prepare their hearts and minds for the temptation to compromise. Close in prayer, asking God to help every believer prepare to stand for what’s right and to avoid spiritual compromise.