



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 2: Judges

Suggested Week of Use: June 11, 2023

Core Passage: Jeremiah 2:1-13

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### News Story Summary

New Orleans high school senior Dennis “Maliq” Barnes recently announced that he would be attending Cornell University to major in computer science. Cornell was one of 188 colleges and universities that offered Dennis a scholarship. These scholarship offers totaled more than \$10 million which broke a world record, set in 2019 by another Louisiana high schooler. Dennis attributed his success to believing in God, keeping education as a priority, and staying focused. As part of his plan, he took dual enrollment classes during his last two years of high school, allowing him to earn college credits before ever setting foot on campus. “It’s easy to get distracted as a teenager,” he said. “There’s nothing wrong with having fun and doing different things; but I think that whenever you have your mind made up and you’re determined to get something done, then it can have a definite effect.” At a news conference announcing his decision to attend Cornell, Dennis and his family donned red Cornell sweatshirts.

For more about this story, search “Louisiana student earns millions in scholarships.”

### Focus Attention

To replace the Engage activities, write on the board, “One goal I wish I had achieved is . . .” Encourage the group to think about and share their responses. Ask: *What kept you from accomplishing that goal?* Note that many times people fall short because they lose focus. Say: *Staying focused can be difficult with all the distractions in today’s world. But we can learn from a teenager.* Share the story of Dennis Barnes, emphasizing the three things that he said kept him on track to achieving his goals. Say: *In this session, we’ll see how the Israelites lost their focus and strayed from God. We’ll also consider ways we can guard against making the same mistake.*

### Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind the group of Dennis Barnes’ story. Say: *Dennis mentioned that there are lots of distractions for teens. But it’s not just teens who have distractions.* Ask: *What are the things that distract us from staying on track with God?* Ask the group to recall the three things that kept Dennis on track. Ask: *How can these three things apply to keeping us on track with God?* (Examples: Believing in God, having godly priorities, and staying focused on godly living) Challenge the group to examine their lives for the distractions that are causing them to drift away from God and to begin working to eliminate those distractions from their lives.