



Session 11: Compromised Potential
Suggested Week of Use: February 12, 2017
Core Passages: Judges 16:4-6,13-20

News Story Summary

China's number one soccer fan, President Xi Jinping, is determined to make his country a great soccer power. The nation's soccer teams have placed poorly in recent international competition, ranking 83rd by FIFA. So a surge of spending and support for the game has been unleashed that has surprised fans and players around the world. Part of the effort includes grooming the next soccer superstar.

Thirteen-year-old Wang Kai practices every day on one of 48 soccer fields in south China, along with 2,800 other students. "Soccer will be my career after I grow up," young Wang said. "I want to be the Chinese Cristiano Ronaldo," referring to the Portuguese superstar.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "Chinese soccer dream.")

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, write the phrase "Be all you can be" on the board before group members arrive. Explain that this statement was a promotional slogan for the U.S. Army. Ask: *What characteristics are descriptive of an army that strives to reach the goal to "be all you can be"?* Write responses on the board. Summarize the news story. Ask: *In what ways could the slogan motivate Wang Kai to reach his goal? Does he portray the right characteristics for reaching his goal?*

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge idea, ask: *Do you think the slogan "be all you can be" could have prevented Samson from compromising? Explain. Are any of the characteristics on the board descriptive of Samson?* Remind group members of the news story. Explain that in spite of a good slogan and the right characteristics, a distraction can cause Wang Kai and others to compromise and not reach their goals. In the same way, Satan seeks to distract believers, causing us to compromise and not reach our full spiritual potential. Challenge group members to take preventative measures against spiritual compromise, such as writing down actions that will help them reach their spiritual goals, memorizing Scriptures, enlisting an accountability partner, engaging in personal Bible study, and so forth.