

SHAMGAR



A Warrior with a Farmer's Tool

Who is Shamgar?

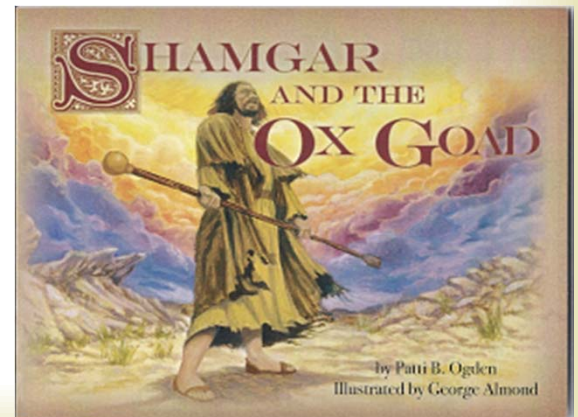


- ❧ Joshua had defeated the major enemies of Israel after leading the people into the promised land, but there still remained many other enemies of the Israelites scattered throughout the land. The time of Judges was full of conflicts and frequent battles.
- ❧ Many walled-in city states were scattered around the land, and the Israelites were constantly threatened by attack

Who is Shamgar?



- ❧ **Judges 5:6** - "In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, The highways were deserted, And the travelers walked along the byways.
- ❧ The people avoided the main highways because of fear of bandits. There was no central government or standing army to protect them.



Who is Shamgar?



❧ Judges 3:31

After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel.

❧ He was a farmer (used an ox goad to direct oxen)

❧ Later became one of the judges of Israel – came after Ehud



Life Lessons



1. Use your gifts for service
2. You don't have to be an expert to serve
3. Don't make excuses to avoid service
4. You will make a difference
5. Realize that you are in a war
6. Service requires personal sacrifice
7. Faithful service has a reward

1. Use your gifts and tools for service



- ❧ God has given us gifts to use in service
- ❧ We don't need to attain some special skill to serve
- ❧ Must service in an area that God has equipped us for
- ❧ **Romans 12:6-8** - Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- ❧ Shamgar did not require special training
- ❧ What is your ox goad?

Ox Goats



- ❧ Teaching – instructing by word or deed
- ❧ Ministry – spreading the faith
- ❧ Exhortation – encouraging the downtrodden
- ❧ Giving – giving to the needy
- ❧ Leading – an example of obedience
- ❧ Mercy – showing love to the sinner

Organs in the Body



- ❧ Each organ has a unique function
- ❧ Each is essential for the proper function of the body
- ❧ The liver cannot pump blood better than the heart
- ❧ We must discover, cultivate, and practice our gifts
- ❧ Always studying and working to sharpen our skills

2. You don't have to be an expert to serve



- ❧ We might avoid service because we are “amateurs”
- ❧ Shamgar's success was from God
- ❧ David's slingshot
- ❧ Moses was not eloquent
- ❧ Samuel started his ministry as a child
- ❧ Disciples were fishermen
- ❧ Shamgar did not fear even though he didn't have the conventional tools necessary

2. You don't have to be an expert to serve



- ✧ God uses us, even though we are sinners
- ✧ Creativity in the service – how can we use our strengths?
- ✧ Do we shy away from the responsibility of the service because we feel that are amateurs?

3. Don't make excuses to avoid service



- ❧ “I am too ____” (young, old, tired, busy, sinful, etc...)
- ❧ Shamgar could have relied on others to go to war
- ❧ He did not say, “I am just a farmer, what can I do?” or “What will happen to my farm while I am at war?”
- ❧ We should not think that others will take care of a service while we remain idle.
- ❧ God has given us ALL gifts, not just some
- ❧ God does not need us, but calls us each to serve in the area we are able

4. You will make a difference



- ❧ Does our service make a difference in the lives of those we serve?
- ❧ Shamgar's amateur attempt did because God blessed it
- ❧ Boy that offered the 5 loaves & 2 fish
- ❧ What if Christ did not feed the multitude? Would the boy have been less blessed?
- ❧ The outward results are not as important as our faithfulness
- ❧ The greatest influence we have on others is usually not obvious

5. Realize that you are in a war



- ❧ What motivated Shamgar to fight? Because there was a war.
- ❧ When there is no war, we relax and let our guard down
- ❧ **Ephesians 6:12** - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- ❧ Lack of motivation to serve – we forget that danger around us

5. Realize that you are in a war



- ❧ We feel safe because we don't see danger
- ❧ We will take service seriously if we know we are fighting for our lives and the lives of those Satan seeks to devour
- ❧ **1 Peter 5:8** - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

6. Service requires personal sacrifice



- ❧ Shamgar left his family and work to fight
- ❧ Winning the war was more important than his personal comfort
- ❧ What do we sacrifice for the service?
 - ❧ Time
 - ❧ Rest
 - ❧ Money
 - ❧ Recreation
 - ❧ Friends/Family

6. Service requires personal sacrifice



- ✧ **Matthew 10:37** - He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.
- ✧ This sacrifice should not a burden because what we gain far outweighs what we give up

7. Faithful service has a reward



- ❧ After the people saw Shamgar's faithfulness, he was made a judge and a leader of the people
- ❧ The only true reward for service comes from God – not from other sources
- ❧ **Matthew 25:23** - His lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."
- ❧ God will compensate for what we sacrifice

Conclusion



1. Use your gifts and tools for service
2. You don't have to be an expert to serve
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4. You will make a difference
5. Realize that you are in a war
6. Service requires personal sacrifice
7. Faithful service has a reward