

Open the Book



Sharing Bible stories with
children everywhere, through
the power of storytelling.



Welcome to Open the Book!

A Bible story well told has the power to spark the imagination, inspire exploration, give hope, create a smile, teach important lessons and connect generations.

What is Open the Book?

Open the Book is an exciting storytelling project where Bible stories are shared with children in a way that is fun, interactive and memorable. As invited guests in school, storytelling teams use the **Open the Book programme** to prepare and present a 10 to 15-minute scripted Bible story to a school assembly, involving the children as much as possible.

Storytelling teams are made up of trained and safely recruited volunteers from local churches and organisations, who sign up to follow the **Open the Book Code of Practice**.

Open the Book Programme

Storytellers use the Open the Book *Storytelling Bible* and *Handbook*. The *Storytelling Bible* includes 90 stories, beginning at Genesis and going all the way through to Revelation.

The *Handbook* provides everything Storytellers need to say in order to create a full assembly. A welcome and introduction lead into the story which is read, followed by a quiet moment for reflection and wonder, concluding with an offered prayer.

Our Code of Practice

All Storytellers agree to:

- Stick to the script and present the story simply, following the *Open the Book Handbook*
- Allow each story to speak for itself, as a Bible story, not as a sermon
- Liaise closely and sensitively with schools, being mindful of the school's context and educational environment
- Be aware that they are invited guests and make minimal demands on schools
- Show respect and sensitivity to those of other faiths and to those with no faith
- Fulfil relevant safeguarding requirements as outlined in the *Open the Book Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct*
- Attend *Open the Book Core Training* before going into school for the first time, and then attend refresher training every three years
- Always be accompanied by members of staff during all storytelling sessions
- Uphold the copyright of *Open the Book* materials
- Keep records of the team and schools up to date with Bible Society

Open the Book is an opportunity for our children to have a deeper understanding of key Bible stories. The assemblies help to develop our children's spirituality and morality as part of our SMSC curriculum.

Headteacher



How do I become a storyteller?

1. Visit our website to find out more.
2. Book onto and attend an *Open the Book* training session.
3. Be safely recruited by your church or sending organisation.
4. Approach a school and see if they are happy for you to visit them.
5. Join or start a team.

When joining or starting a team, full members receive their very own copy of the *OtB Storytelling Bible and Handbook* and have access to our *OtB* membership area full of helpful resources.

Get storytelling!

How does Open the Book benefit schools?

- It gives the school a link with the community
- It provides opportunities to build cross-generational relationships
- It provides a time of quiet reflection that schools are required to build into their school day
- It makes an engaging school assembly
- It has been positively viewed in official school reports
- It is free to the school
- It requires no extra work or planning from school staff
- It is successful in multi-faith contexts

Staff in schools value Open the Book because they know exactly what has been said and can answer with confidence any questions they may be asked about the content of the assembly.

I want to know how OtB is delivered in my child's school ...

You may have questions about OtB, so the best thing to do is speak to your school first. They can let you know how OtB is presented in your school.

You can also check out our website and contact us with any questions.

I would like an OtB team to visit my school ...

First contact your local church/es and see if there is an OtB team in your area. If your local church/es don't have an OtB team, share our website with them and invite them to start a team.

Otherwise, you can contact us and we will try to help.

- **Open the Book is all about telling Bible stories**, not preaching or evangelising, so children of all faiths and those with no faith can watch and interact with the stories in their own way
- Open the Book is a **scripted programme** and we ask all Storytellers to stick to the script
- A great deal of care and attention have gone into ensuring that the stories and assembly scripts are **acceptable and accessible to the widest possible audience**
- The script also allows children of all faiths and those with no faith to decide if they would like to **join in with the prayer or not**

Contact

If you have any questions please contact us.



contactus@biblesociety.org.uk



biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book



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