



Be a voice for Open the Book by helping to share Bible Stories in primary schools by becoming a Team Leader (or Deputy Team Leader)

What's a Team Leader?

An Open the Book (OtB) Team Leader is responsible for overseeing important details that relate to storytelling teams. Storytellers work in teams of between 4 and 12 people and are made up of Christians from a local church or churches working together. The Team Leader role is the primary contact person for this team who is willing to be a storyteller but who is also willing to take responsibility for the team's activities. The Team Leader and Deputy need to be approved by their own church leadership.

What's a Deputy Team Leader?

Deputy Team Leaders are willing to support the Team Leader and take responsibility in the absence of the Team Leader but should not be from the same household to avoid double absences during holidays.

What would I be doing?

While each member of the team can take turns to lead the school assemblies and organise roles and props, the Team Leader does have extra responsibility for the team. This includes the following:

- Meeting together with other storytellers to arrange practice times and the sharing of responsibilities e.g. narrating, acting, dressing up, supporting children with the presentation of the Bible Storytelling, making props, costumes, praying, helping with rotas or organising story presentations
- Meet the local school's Head Teacher to arrange going into the school regularly
- Liaising with your key school contact for available dates
- Get involved in the team using your gifts and talents to deliver Bible Stories in collective worship/assemblies using ideas from OtB
- Liaising with the team for available volunteers for planning and practice
- Arranging for the team to attend an information session and training session
- Being aware of the website and resources available
- Ensuring each team member has a copy of the relevant Storybooks and Handbooks
- Registering the team with the OtB office and collecting contact information for each team member
- Being a key contact person for the team from the OtB office and inform the office with details of any team members leaving the team or new members joining the team.

Safeguarding:

- Each church is responsible for its own storytellers and getting them DBS checked, so as Team Leader you need to be appointed and approved by your church leadership

- Ensuring that all the team members have a DBS check before they start going into schools
- Receiving Safeguarding information from the OtB office and ensuring each team member has a copy and adheres to its contents
- Informing us of any incidents, child complaints, or safeguarding issues
- Knowing and sharing with the team who the Church/Denominational Safeguarding officer is
- Knowing and sharing with the team who the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in England and Designated Senior Person (DSP) in Wales is for the School
- Receiving and distributing safeguarding documents to every team member when they are sent from the OtB office and making sure they understand relevant procedures.

How much time is involved?

You'll spend time – maybe up to an hour total (preferably weekly or fortnightly) – meeting with the team to plan, prepare and present Bible stories to your local primary school using a script, handbook and picture Bible making the presentations fun and interactive with the children. Sometimes you may wish to include them in the acting.

Initially, you need to register as a new team and ideally attend an information and initial training session for new Storytellers where you will be inspired and given ideas of how to get the best out of the resources. You will also be informed of important information like Safeguarding practice.

What could I gain from being a Storyteller?

You'll:

- have lots of fun with other volunteers
- use your gifts and talents to share the Bible with the next generation
- have the satisfaction of knowing that your efforts are boosting Bible literacy throughout England and Wales and the Channel Islands
- be part of a church or churches together team that is serving their local community
- have the opportunity to participate in local training to help enhance your Bible Story telling

Will I have support?

- There's help from your Deputy Team Leader and Area Co-ordinator as well as Open the Book and Bible Society staff based in Swindon. We can be contacted by email or phone.

Contact enquiries@openthebook.net or telephone 01793 418355 for further details