





*We're just doing
what Jesus did -
telling stories.
I love that about it!*

The volunteer

When someone phoned Sue Hughes out of the blue and asked if she'd like to be part of an Open the Book group, she knew she had to do it.

'I realised Open the Book addresses the three things I am most passionate about: Jesus, children and the Bible. It's absolutely tailor-made for me,' she said. Now, this lively 72-year-old former entrepreneur visits Goronwy Owen School, in Benllech, Anglesey, once a week to open up the Bible for children there.

'I just love being with the children and giving them something that's going to be priceless. The stories in the Bible are fantastic, and Open the Book is just doing what Jesus did – telling stories. I love that about it. There are no barriers, it's just stories,' said Sue.

Give thanks for the Bible storytellers. Pray for energy and enjoyment, as well as fresh ideas and good relationships with the children.

£90 could reach 90 children – three classes –
with the Bible's stories each week.



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It's important for children to understand the heritage and history in the Bible.

The headteacher

Sarah Greensides, headteacher of Manor Park Primary School, in Knutsford, Cheshire, welcomes an Open the Book team into her school once a week.

She says the assemblies open children's eyes to the world outside the school's walls, and gives them confidence to take part in drama and performances. And it's one less assembly for her to think about each week!

'We're a Christian country and it's important for children to understand the heritage and history in the Bible, as well as its value as a faith story,' said Mrs Greensides.

'I'm amazed the children remember the stories so well. They engage with the storytelling and enjoy it. It's not just me doing another assembly – it's lively, interactive and they get to be part of it.'

Pray for more schools to welcome Open the Book as the project expands.

£260 could launch Open the Book in another school, reaching 250 pupils with the Bible.



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I didn't understand any of the Bible until Open the Book came to our school!

The children

It's another Wednesday morning at school for 10-year-old Sadie. But today, she's not sitting down to practice her handwriting. Instead, Sadie is dressing up to take part in a Bible drama in the school hall.

'Open the Book is trying to make you understand what the Bible is all about,' she said. 'You need to know the Bible because if you don't, you don't know what Jesus or God did to make the world what it is today.'

'I didn't understand any of the Bible until Open the Book came to our school. The stories are not boring, you never want to go to sleep or doze off, it's always really good.'

Sadie first heard her favourite story, the Good Samaritan, during an Open the Book assembly: *'It's basically saying that if I fell and hurt myself, then Natalie and Emily would walk past me, but someone that I hated would help me up.'*

Pray for the children hearing the Bible for the first time through Open the Book assemblies. Pray that we'll be able to reach more children like Sadie.

£10 could take Open the Book to 10 children, giving them a weekly encounter with Scripture.



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Isn't it a wonderful way of the older generation passing a narrative on to a young generation?

The church leader

Open the Book has seen phenomenal growth in some parts of the country, as word spreads and more storytellers join the ranks.

In Anglesey, Wales, *'two things happened,'* according to Archdeacon of Bangor, Venerable Revd Paul Davies. *'Churches got really enthusiastic about it and schools got enthusiastic about it. And suddenly we have not just enthusiasm, but teams in schools. It's just been a fantastic project.'*

He added, *'Isn't it a wonderful way of the older generation passing a narrative on to a younger generation? It goes back centuries. With the fragmentation of communities today, there's something of that which has been lost. In Open the Book, we're re-connecting something. There's something profound about that.'*

Pray that churches will capture the vision for Open the Book, and that more teams will be formed to take the Bible to more school children.

£7,800 could reach nearly 8,000 children with weekly Bible stories



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