

SOCIABLE



Welcome to Open the Book!

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.

Go storytelling!



How does Open
the Book benefit schools?