

Code of Practice

Storytellers must sign up to our Code of Practice:

- Stick to the script and present the story, without addition or improvisation, following the guidelines in the Open the Book Handbooks.
- Allow each story to speak for itself, as a Bible story, not as a sermon.
- Liaise closely and sensitively with schools, and be mindful of the educational environment.
- Make minimal demands on schools and be aware of being invited visitors.
- Show respect and sensitivity to those of other faiths, and to those with none.
- Fulfil relevant safeguarding requirements.
- Uphold the copyright of Open the Book material.

How it works

Open the Book has over 120 stories to be used in a programme that can run for three consecutive years, with an optional year of Christian values, which can be interspersed or run as a fourth year. The programme begins with a timeline overview of the Bible from Creation to Ascension. Each story comes with a scripted introduction, conclusion, time of reflection and a final prayer.

Many of the stories come from *The Lion Storyteller Bible*, by Bob Hartman, and others have been specifically written for Open the Book. The stories come with a handbook, which contains direction notes, costume ideas, advice and tips.

Training can be provided, along with regular updated online resources and newsletters.

It's our volunteer Storytellers who make Open the Book such a success. They go into primary schools, build relationships with staff and bring the Bible to life through drama. Storytellers are part of a team formed from the local church or churches working together.

The stories are carefully scripted and directed so they're easy to present and preparation isn't hard. Teams find and fund their own props and costumes but this can be as simple as a scarf on the head – and neighbouring teams often share props.

No one is too old or young to take part!



Bringing the Bible to Life

for every child in every primary school

Contact

Go to openthebook.net for more information and guidance. Storytellers, once registered, can access further ideas and information as well as order the materials and products.

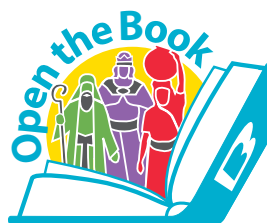
For any other enquiries please contact us:

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Sponsored by: **Sir Halley Stewart** Trust



Open the Book is part of Bible Society

Photography by Howard Wilkinson



Children love stories – especially Bible stories when they're interactive, engaging and fun.

That's what Open the Book is all about. Teams of between four and eight storytellers tell Bible stories in primary schools – using drama, props and costumes – to bring the stories to life. Whether it's as simple as a tunic for a child to wear or a large scale boat, the props make all the difference!

Open the Book teams are made up of members of the local church, or from several churches working in partnership, who go into the primary school to deliver a 10-minute scripted Bible Story assembly from an extensive rolling programme of stories.

Currently hundreds of thousands of children are hearing Bible stories regularly – but many more are not. We have requests from schools which we can't fulfil because there are no local teams.

Can you help?

If there's not already a team from your church, perhaps you could help set one up? Chat with your church leader.

There are currently over 15,000 volunteer storytellers across the UK going into schools, building

To become a Storyteller you will need:

- Time – around an hour, each session, during term time to prepare and present the story in school. Some teams operate a rota system for Storytellers to take turns on different weeks.
- *The Lion Storyteller Bible.*
- Open the Book Handbooks and Storybooks.



Photography by Howard Wilkinson

relationships with staff and bringing the Bible to life in exciting ways to hundreds of thousands of children each year. They're doing a magnificent job, and we're on the lookout for more. The bigger our Open the Book team, the bigger the impact we can have!

'I don't read the Bible at home or anywhere else, but I like Open the Book because you can see the stories come to life.'

Zac, aged 7



Photography by Layton Thompson

'I have seen many a burly Year 6 beaming with pride as they become a guard in Pharaoh's palace or an Israelite escaping through the waters of the Red Sea.'

Andy Browne,
Head Teacher of St Nicholas
CE Primary School

If you're a school teacher

- Open the Book programmes have, from the beginning, formed part of a school's Collective Worship programme.
- Open the Book stories fulfil the legal requirement to be educational, inclusive and spiritual in a multi-faith setting.
- This programme is about storytelling, not preaching or evangelising, so children of all faiths – and those with none – can watch and interact with the stories in their own way.
- Open the Book contributes to children's religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.
- Storytellers sign up to our Code of Practice, which means they stick to the script, and fulfil relevant safeguarding requirements.
- Storytellers are groups of volunteers from local churches who come to the school and who prepare and practise in their own time.

If you're part of a church

- Open the Book gives children the opportunity to discover the wonder and wisdom of the Bible for themselves.
- Storytellers are required by most schools to be DBS checked.
- Churches are responsible to safely recruit the storytelling teams.
- Regular training sessions are offered across England and Wales. Training is strongly recommended for those working in a multi-faith context.
- Maybe there are people in your church who are good at crafts or making costumes and could help in this way.
- **You will have a lot of fun!**



Photography by Layton Thompson