

## What is Open the Book?

**Open the Book** is a project which offers primary school children an opportunity to hear the major stories of the Bible, presented chronologically or thematically, during the school year. It is a free service given to each school by a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during Collective Worship. Each presentation takes a maximum of 10 minutes and can be incorporated into a wider school assembly, or can stand alone.

In Year 1, all the stories are taken from *The Lion Storyteller Bible* written by Bob Hartman, and give an overview of the Bible from Creation to the Ascension. Years two and three take a more modular approach, where each module comprises five stories clustered around a theme. For these years, additional stories are provided by the **Open the Book Bible Storybook**, to supplement those from *The Lion Storyteller Bible*.

**Open the Book** fulfils both OFSTED and Church School Inspection requirements for Collective Worship, and has been successfully used in a multi-faith context.

For further information, help, advice or feedback about the project, please contact:

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## How does Open the Book operate?

- Each school has a regular team of at least four to seven people drawn from their local church(es). Individual teams are responsible for liaising with their local school regarding day, time, usual customs and security.
- The team present the stories weekly using a variety of storytelling methods. 'Open the Book' begins with a brief introduction to ensure that each story is placed in context. This Handbook gives guidance on how to present the individual stories with eye-catching visual aids and involving the children.
- After the story there is an opportunity for guided quiet reflection. This gives the children time to reflect on some aspect of the story or on something which relates directly to them and their friends. This is followed by a short closing prayer which the children are invited to make their own by joining in with the "Amen" at the end. It is very important that the children are not coerced into participating in prayer by the use of phrases such as "Let us pray" or "Close your eyes while we pray".
- All the text for the Open the Book assembly is contained in this Handbook, and either *The Lion Storyteller Bible* (2008 expanded edition)\*, or in the *Open the Book Storybook 3*. Please uphold the integrity of Open the Book by sticking to the script. We take great care to ensure that the material can be used in a Christian or multi-faith context. Please resist the temptation to change it.
- For copyright reasons we expect each volunteer to have their own copies of *The Lion Storyteller Bible* and the relevant Open the Book books.
- We require all individual volunteers and teams to register with Open the Book. The material is only available to registered members who have agreed to our aims and Code of Practice. (Please see our website [www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net) for details.)
- We require all volunteer storytellers to undergo the necessary safeguarding checks through their own church or denominational procedures. **The responsibility for this lies entirely with the individual team and the churches who send them into their local school; it is neither the role nor responsibility of Open The Book.**

\* For Year 3, please use the 2008 (expanded edition) of *The Lion Storyteller Bible*. The earlier (1995) edition is not suitable, as some of the stories used in Year 3 are not included - and many of the stories that are common to both have been amended for the latest edition, so will not be the same.