



Open the Book – 25th Anniversary

Sharing the Bible with children everywhere, through the power of storytelling.

Decoration

You could have a 25th birthday balloon on display.

Introduction

We all love a good story. We read stories, we watch stories and we tell stories. Stories have the power to teach us, to light a spark in us, to challenge us, to convey meaning and even to change us.

Jesus was a master storyteller. He understood the power of parables and stories to help us see and understand things.

The Bible is the powerful story of God's loving relationship with humanity. It is the greatest story of all!

Open the Book is part of Bible Society. It's a Bible storytelling ministry to primary school children.

Today we celebrate, with thanksgiving, the 25th anniversary of Open the Book and the mission and vision to share Bible stories with children everywhere, through the power of storytelling.

The Bible urges us to pass the stories of God onto the next generation. Open the Book offers us an effective way of doing that.

Possible Bible Readings

*All Bible references are from the GNB.

'Israel, remember this! The LORD — and the LORD alone — is our God. Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Never forget these commands that I am giving you today. Teach them to your children. Repeat them when you are at home and when you are

away, when you are resting and when you are working. Tie them on your arms and wear them on your foreheads as a reminder. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.'

(Deuteronomy 6.4–9)

'So also will be the word that I speak – it will not fail to do what I plan for it; it will do everything I send it to do.'

(Isaiah 55.11)

'We will not keep them from our children; we will tell the next generation about the LORD's mighty power and his great deeds and the wonderful things he has done.'

(Psalm 78.4)

'What you have done will be praised from one generation to the next; they will proclaim your mighty acts.'

(Psalm 145.4)

'Jesus used parables to tell all these things to the crowds; he would not say a thing to them without using a parable. He did this to make what the prophet had said come true: "I will use parables when I speak to them; I will tell them things unknown since the creation of the world."'

(Matthew 13.34–35)

'The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us.'

(John 1.14)

Activities

Here are a range of possible activities to choose from:

Show the Open the Book promotion video.

Ask an OtB team to act out an Open the Book session. Involve the congregation. If you use Makaton when storytelling, then you might like to show some Makaton signs.

Interview an OtB Storyteller. They may have a few personal stories to tell.

Teach the congregation the Open the Book song.

Use one of the OtB Bible studies as the basis for the talk or sermon.

Liturgy/Prayer with response

May we go amongst the next generation.

May we Open your Book for them.

May we sow stories like seeds in their lives.

May we Open your Book for them.

May we serve schools as we take them your stories.

May we Open your Book for them.

May we introduce you to children.

May we Open your Book for them.

Amen.

Prayer

Let us Pray:

Jesus,

We are thankful that you were a master storyteller. Your stories have impacted our lives.

We are grateful for the countless Open the Book teams that have shared the stories from the Bible with thousands of children in schools across England and Wales and around the world.

May seeds continue to be sown in the lives of the next generation everywhere. May they remember the stories, reflect on them and may you become known to them.

We pray for Open the Book over the next twenty-five years. We ask that its ministry continues to flourish, even as the landscape of our world changes, for your stories are timeless.

Amen.

[Find out more about Open the Book.](#)