



TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE OPEN THE BOOK STORYTELLER FAMILY

Introduction

Open the Book (OtB) 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 10–15 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 as members and follow the Code of Practice.

Full Membership will cost £20 a year, and Associate Membership will cost £5 a year. The [‘Member Benefits’ table](#) outlines the differences between the membership levels. We have prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section for you on our website.

Member packs will then be shipped directly to you, including the new *Storytelling Bible* and Open the Book *Storytellers’ Handbook* as part of the full membership pack.

Full members have access to the OtB members’ area, which is packed with helpful resources, and can purchase additional copies of *The Storytelling Bible* and *Storytellers’ Handbook*.

All members will receive regular newsletters and occasional mailings with updates, important news and developments, and links to fun ideas and stories.

If someone chooses not to sign up to be a Full or Associate Member they will become a Heritage Storyteller until July 2024, and will be able to serve in a storytelling team until then.

Please note that Team Leaders need to be Full Members.

Being a Member and its benefits

Members are those who are actively engaged as a volunteer in delivering the Open the Book programme in schools as a representative of their local church. Members can say they are Open the Book Storytellers and use Bible Society authorised material when acting as Storytellers.

In return for their annual membership fee, Full Members are provided with or granted access to all the resources listed in the first column of the [Table of Membership Benefits](#) available on the Open the Book webpage, including all materials necessary to act as an Open the Book Storyteller.

Members may choose to be an Associate Member instead of a Full Member. This may be appropriate for volunteers whose spouse is a Full Member and they volunteer together, or for someone who is an active Storyteller but whose participation is likely to be infrequent. Associate Members can access the resources listed in the second column of the Table of Membership Benefits available on the Open the Book webpage.

We may alter the Table of Membership Benefits at any time. However, you are entitled to all the benefits stipulated at the time when you paid your fee until that fee period comes to an end.

In addition we will provide the following:

- Support from a Regional Training and Development Officer
- Core Training and Safeguarding information
- Updates regarding what to do if you have a safeguarding concern
- Arrange for you to be covered under Bible Society's public liability insurance policy (wording available on request)
- A renewal reminder 30 days before the end of each annual period of your membership

Membership fee

Full Member: £20 annually

Associate Member: £5 annually

Membership fees can be paid personally or by your church. If your church pays on your behalf, please ensure that they use your correct name so we can identify you in our records.

Eligibility

You are eligible to be a Member if:

- You are a member of an Open the Book team sponsored by a church or organisation that has agreed to provide Open the Book volunteers to a local school
- That church or organisation has approved you as a volunteer
- You have been safely recruited by that church or organisation in accordance with our Code of Practice
- You have undertaken Bible Society Open the Book Core Training within last three years
- You have refreshed your understanding of safeguarding issues at a local level in the previous year before becoming a Member or renewing your membership fee
- You have completed training and intend to start volunteering within the next six months

Your responsibility

- As an Open the Book Storyteller you are in the privileged position of being able to influence children's education in a direct and positive way. This position comes with the responsibility to act at all times in a safe and appropriate manner
- As a condition of membership you are therefore required:
 - To agree with the principle that all human beings are of equal worth in the sight of God
 - To aim to follow biblical principles in all that you do
 - To be recruited or endorsed by a church or organisation that has undertaken:
 - To provide Open the Book training to Storytellers through approved trainers
 - To require Storytellers to attend their denomination's safeguarding training and a session with the relevant school's Designated Safeguarding Lead or Designated Senior Person (if required)
 - To arrange for Storytellers to discuss safeguarding matters and relevant policies and procedures once a year

- To do all they can to ensure that Storytellers are never left alone with children while delivering the Open the Book programme, and that they conduct themselves in accordance with reasonable expectations of someone who represents the church
- To comply with the Open the Book [Code of Practice and Code of Conduct](#)
- To provide us with a postal address and an email address which we will use to send you essential information about how to serve safely and effectively as an Open the Book storyteller.

Termination of membership

You may terminate your membership at any time.

Bible Society may terminate your membership at any time if:

- You do not pay your annual fee within 30 days of being requested to do so
- You cease to belong to an Open the Book team sponsored by a church or organisation
- The church or organisation that sponsored your Open the Book team has ceased to provide Open the Book volunteers to a local school
- The church that sponsors your team has ceased to approve you as a volunteer
- You have failed to undertake the continuing training recommended by Bible Society or the church that sponsors your Open the Book team
- You have failed to comply with the Open the Book Code of Practice
- You have failed to comply with the Open the Book Code of Conduct
- You are being investigated for or have been charged with a criminal offence (other than a minor road traffic offence)

If your membership is terminated:

- You may not act as an Open the Book Storyteller or as part of an Open the Book Storyteller team or hold yourself out as doing so
- Bible Society may terminate your access to all resources provided to Members
- If so requested, you must return any physical Open the Book related product that has been provided to you by Bible Society
- You will cease to be covered by Bible Society's public liability insurance policy
- You are not entitled to the return of your annual membership fee or any part of it

Declaration

I declare that I have read the Terms and Conditions, including the Open the Book Code of Practice and the Open the Book Code of Conduct, and that I satisfy all the requirements for a Full or Associate Member set out the Terms and Conditions of Membership.

When acting as a Storyteller, I undertake to continue to comply with the conditions of membership set out under 'Your responsibility' in the Terms and Conditions of Membership, including compliance with the Open the Book Code of Practice and the Open the Book Code of Conduct.