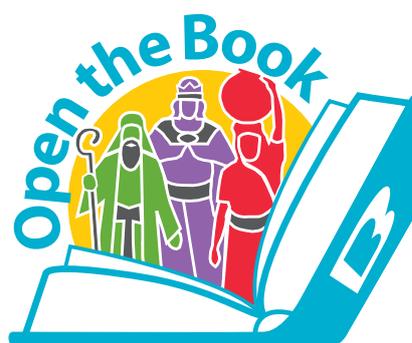




Christian Values Handbook

A biblical approach



Bringing the Bible to life for every child
in every primary school

Content

What is Open the Book?	3
How does Open the Book operate?	4
What's different about <i>Christian Values: A biblical approach?</i>	6
<i>Christian Values Stories</i>	7
Handbook pages: Endurance Story 5	8
Storybook pages: Endurance Story 5	10
Handbook pages: Endurance Story 6	12
Storybook pages: Endurance Story 6	14



What is Open the Book?

Hello and welcome to Open the Book and welcome to Bible storytelling in primary schools!

However tempting it may be, please don't skip these introductory pages, even if you have been involved in **Open the Book** before.

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 one 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.

Open the Book aligns to the criteria used by OFSTED, ESTYN and SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) when inspecting acts of Collective Worship.

The **Open the Book** project is part of the Bible Society and is made up of a three-year rolling programme with an additional, but optional year of material based on Christian Values, which form part of the criteria for Church school acts of Collective Worship.

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 2 and 3 take a more modular approach, where each Value comprises five stories clustered around a theme. For these years, additional stories are provided by the *Open the Book Bible Storybooks*, to supplement those from *The Lion Storyteller Bible*. This suits weekly and fortnightly visits, or the timing can be more flexibly used – for example, monthly or half-termly.

NB: Not every story in The Lion Storyteller Bible is used as part of the Open the Book programme.

The additional but optional Christian Values material provides an Old and a New Testament story for each of the designated Christian Values. This material is called *Christian Values: A biblical approach*. It is important to give a breadth of Bible storytelling and to keep the balance between Old and New Testament stories. Should your school require more values material on the same value, our website provides a list of possible options from the existing material, which could complement the Old and New Testament stories in *Christian Values: A biblical approach*.



The *Open the Book* materials, i.e. the Handbook and Storybook packs, are available only to registered Storytellers via our website: openthebook.net.

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

Open the Book, Bible Society

01793 418355

Email: enquiries@openthebook.net

Website: openthebook.net



Open the Book, Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG
Tel: 01793 418355
Email: enquiries@openthebook.net
Website: openthebook.net
Registration charity 232759

Copyright © The British and Foreign Bible Society 2017

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, security and safeguarding.
- **Open the Book** acts of Collective Worship should be presented regularly – weekly, fortnightly, monthly or even half-termly in some cases where the school's Collective Worship timetable requires the mix of other faiths.
- Before a team can access the **Open the Book** materials or start visiting the school, each team must be registered with **Open the Book** after being safely recruited by their church. These materials and access to the creative ideas, templates to make props, etc., are only available to registered volunteers who have agreed to our Code of Conduct and Code of Practice. (Please see our website openthebook.net for details of how to register.)
- The team present scripted stories using a variety of storytelling methods. An **Open the Book** act of Collective Worship begins with a brief scripted introduction to ensure that each story is placed in context. For the Christian Values material, the value is unpacked or

explained. The Handbooks give 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'.
- Additional advice is available from **Open the Book** to support teams working in a predominantly multi-faith school.
- **Open the Book** is a scripted intervention. All the scripting for the assembly is contained in this Handbook, and in *The Lion Storyteller Bible* (2008 expanded edition), *Storybooks 2 and 3* or *Christian Values: A biblical approach*. Head Teachers value **Open the Book** because they know what has been said and can answer any queries or complaints. Please uphold the integrity of **Open the Book** by sticking to the script. Great care has been taken to ensure that the material can be used in a Christian or multi-faith context. Please resist the temptation to change it. This is covered in training, but, should you need to seek clarification, please contact **Open the Book** via enquires@openthebook.net.
- For copyright reasons we expect each volunteer Storyteller to have their own copies of *The Lion Storyteller Bible* and the relevant **Open the Book** Storybooks and Handbooks.
- **Open the Book** Storytellers are eligible to apply for an Enhanced DBS check (without a check of the barred list) before attending a school as an **Open the Book** Storyteller. It is the responsibility of the sending church(es) to ensure that Storytellers are safely recruited and the appropriate DBS checks are carried out in accordance with their own church or denominational procedures. The responsibility for this lies with the churches who send them into their local school; it is neither the role nor the responsibility of **Open the Book**.



What's different about *Christian Values: A biblical approach*?

Hello and welcome to Open the Book *Christian Values*.

The stories for *Christian Values* are arranged thematically into 15 Christian values, each with an Old and a New Testament story, plus Christmas, Easter and a new version of the Good Samaritan under the additional value of Love. The *Christian Values: A biblical approach* stories have all been written by Bob Hartman.

The values can be used in any order. The values are the ones used by Church schools so they should not be substituted. For example, if your school uses the value of Persistence, it does not have the same meaning as Endurance.

Following feedback from children themselves, all these stories contain the opportunity for the whole school to be involved through words or simple actions.

Generally these stories are pitched more towards Key Stage 2, although Key Stage 1 will also get something from the stories.

Our Aims

- To present the Bible in primary schools in an accessible and enjoyable way.
- To tell the stories in ways which enable the children to engage imaginatively with the text.
- To equip, encourage and enable volunteers from churches to deliver good quality assemblies.
- To assist primary schools in meeting their statutory collective worship obligations.
- To contribute to the children's religious, spiritual and moral education.
- To contribute to the biblical literacy of each new generation.
- To enhance children's understanding of the nation's Christian heritage.
- To encourage links between school and church in a local context.

Christian Values Stories

value	story	title	page	based on
Compassion	1	The Widow of Zarephath	8	1 Kings 17.8–24
	2	Lots of Mouths to Feed	10	Matthew 15.29–39
Creation	3	This Is Good!	12	Genesis 1.1—2.3
	4	From Saul to Paul	14	Acts 9.1–19; 2 Corinthians 5.17
Endurance	5	Build Up the Walls!	16	Nehemiah
	6	The Promised One	18	Luke 2.22–35
Forgiveness	7	The King Who Was Really Sorry	20	2 Chronicles 33.1–20
	8	Forgiven and Grateful	22	Luke 7.36–49
Friendship	9	Barzillai, Friend of Kings	24	2 Samuel 19.31–40
	10	A Friend at Midnight	26	Luke 11.5–9
Hope	11	Jeremiah Buys a Field	28	Jeremiah 32.1–44
	12	John's Dream	30	Revelation 21.1–9
Humility	13	Solomon's Prayer	32	1 Kings 3.1–15
	14	Me First!	34	Mark 10.35–45
Justice	15	That's Not Right!	36	Amos 5
	16	Something Very Special	38	Matthew 5.38–42
Koinonia	17	A Friend for Adam	40	Genesis 2
	18	A New Community	42	Acts 2
Love	19	The Christmas Poem	44	Luke 1.26–38; 2.1–21
	20	The Easter Poem	46	Matthew 27.57—28.10
	21	But Who Is My Neighbour?	48	Luke 10.25–37
Peace	22	Abigail the Peacemaker	50	1 Samuel 25
	23	Stilling the Storm	52	Luke 8.22–25
Reverence	24	Down from the Mountain	54	Exodus 19.1—20.20
	25	A Special Moment for Thomas	56	John 20.19–29
Service	26	The Man Who Lived Up to His Name	58	Jeremiah 38
	27	A Surprise for the Disciples	60	John 13.1–17
Thankfulness	28	Tough Times for Miriam	62	Exodus 2.1—15.21
	29	Not-so-ordinary Mary	64	Luke 1.26–56
Trust	30	The Good Shepherd	66	Psalms 23
	31	A Big Catch	68	Luke 5.1–11
Wisdom	32	Adam and Eve	70	Genesis 3
	33	The Tale of Ten Young Girls	72	Matthew 25.1–13

All stories are taken from *Christian Values: A biblical approach*

Value: Endurance

Story 5 Build up the Walls!

Starting & Finishing

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes, when we tackle something, it comes really easily. But other times, it can be a lot of hard work. Think about a polar explorer – he or she might endure difficult weather or dangerous animals or physical struggles on the way to the destination. In today's story from the Bible, we meet a man who has to push through hard times. I wonder if he's going to give up?

Let's hear what the Bible says about Endurance and OPEN THE BOOK to the story of 'Build up the Walls!'

Read the story 'Build up the Walls!' from the Christian Values Storybook.

CONCLUSION

Nehemiah loved his people and his city, and he knew God wanted the city walls to be rebuilt. So even when things got hard, he didn't give up. He kept on trusting God, and he kept on rebuilding the walls as God wanted him to. He persevered and he showed endurance.

QUIET MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Think back over today's story. I wonder if you have ever been trying to do something important and someone has made it difficult for you? What inspires you about the endurance Nehemiah and his people showed? Have a quiet think about something that is challenging you right now.

Allow time for reflection – silently count to 10, or even 15, slowly.

PRAYER INTRODUCTION

Now I'm going to say a prayer, and if you want to make it your prayer, say 'Amen' at the end after me.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you that Nehemiah knew you were with him in his difficult task. Help me to endure the struggles I face. Amen.

Value: Endurance

Story 5 Build up the Walls!

Direction

STORYTELLERS NEEDED

Essential: Lead Narrator; Nehemiah and Artaxerxes; lead storyteller for each of the three groups

Additional: Children to be workers and neighbours

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESENTATION (INCLUDING ALL THE CHILDREN)

- This poem is written with a repeated chorus. If you like, divide the children into three groups and allocate a line to each, with everyone joining in for the last line.
- You can link actions to each line, too. For example: line 1 with clenched fists or a strongman gesture; line 2 showing little pieces with your fingers; line 3 building up with hands one on top of the other; line 4 with palms upwards, building up to raise arms above your head.
- Smaller groups of children can be part of the presentation, as neighbours and workers.
- Use the available space to demarcate the various areas of Persia and the walls of Jerusalem.
- The whole poem can be narrated by one person, with everyone else acting and miming their parts. Alternatively, Nehemiah and Artaxerxes could read their verses of the poem (including the words, 'he said', otherwise the poem loses its flow). Or you could have two narrators and alternate the voices.

SUGGESTIONS FOR VISUAL IMPACT

- King Artaxerxes should be well dressed and have a crown.
- Nehemiah needs to look like a smart servant. A plastic picnic wine glass with blackcurrant squash would serve for a chalice, with a plastic tray. Avoid the use of glass.
- A signpost saying 'Jerusalem' can show Nehemiah's journey. If you wish, you could have a further signpost with the names of the gates.
- A child's hobby horse could be used to ride round the city gates, or you could make a horse in the same way as the cut-out camels in The Wise Men's Visit (Year 1).
- A scroll or a letter, as used in other stories.

EXTRA RESOURCES

Download from openthebook.net/cv5

MY NOTES

Value: Endurance

Story **5** Build up the Walls!

Chorus:

*Our neighbours are fierce, they show no pity,
Our walls are in pieces, itty-bitty,
So let's build them up so they're nice and pretty,
Build up the walls of Jerusalem city.*

Nehemiah lived in a Persian town
But his heart was in Jerusalem, so when he found
That the walls of his homeland were fallen down
He went to Artaxerxes, the man with the crown.

'Oh king,' he said, and he shed a tear,
'Things back in Jerusalem are bad, I hear.
If I could have a week off, a month, or a year,
I'll fix what's wrong, save my people from fear.'

Repeat chorus ...

'I like you, Nehemiah,' Artaxerxes said.
'You're the best cupbearer that a king could get.
You taste my wine. I've not been poisoned yet,
So leave with my blessing, and do your best.'

So Nehemiah, along with the king's own soldiers,
And a letter to allow him to pass safe through borders,
And a load of timber that the king himself ordered,
Set off for his homeland to lay brick and mortar.

Repeat chorus ...

When he got there, he rode at night on his horse
Round the walls of the city on a jagged course.
The walls were broken down, but even worse,
The gates had been destroyed by a fiery force.

The Sheep Gate, the Fountain Gate (they all had names),
Lay there in ruins; it was just the same
For the Horse Gate and the Fish Gate and the Old Gate, too,
And the Dung Gate (yeah, yeah, that's where they dumped the poo).

Repeat chorus ...

Then the people of Jerusalem broke up into teams –
Families, clans, that sort of thing –
And they worked on the walls and the gates and the beams.
It all went well, or so it seemed.

For their enemies laughed and mocked and made fun.
'You'll never finish,' they said, 'it'll never get done.
A little fox could knock over that wall with one shove
What makes you think you can protect this city you love?'

Repeat chorus ...

But the people worked on, they didn't give up,
So their enemies decided it was time to get tough.
'We'll stop this,' they said, 'we're coming to fight ya',
And they even plotted to kill Nehemiah!

But the people worked on, even when things got rougher.
If their enemies were tough, then they could be tougher.
With a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other
They defended the city, mother and brother.

In just fifty-two days, their work was completed,
Gates and walls rebuilt, nasty neighbours defeated.
Then they all worshipped God. His law they repeated.
And praised him for giving them all that they needed.

Repeat chorus ...

Value: Endurance

Story 6 The Promised One

Starting & Finishing

INTRODUCTION

Think about something you might want to do ... but you have to keep going and wait patiently for it.

This week we're going to think about someone called Simeon, who shows us that endurance is about keeping going for a very long time. He kept going until he met Jesus as a very young baby. I think that would be worth waiting for.

Let's hear what the Bible says about Endurance, and OPEN THE BOOK to the story of 'The Promised One'.

Read the story of 'The Promised One' from the Christian Values Storybook.

CONCLUSION

Simeon waited his whole adult life to meet Jesus. He didn't give up. He showed endurance. People around him might have wondered why he didn't give up. They might have encouraged him to give up, but he kept going, because he believed God's promises.

QUIET MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

In today's world, we can get news on the internet in a matter of seconds. We want things straight away. But some things are worth waiting for, and can even be better when we have to wait. Think for a moment about what gives you the strength there is in hoping, the strength in waiting, the strength in endurance and in perseverance.

Allow time for reflection – silently count to 10, or even 15, slowly.

PRAYER INTRODUCTION

Now I'm going to say a prayer, and if you want to make it your prayer, say 'Amen' at the end after me.

PRAYER

Dear God, sometimes it is very hard not to give up. Please give us strength to endure and carry on. Amen.

Or:

Dear God, sometimes we are impatient and want everything now, but some things are worth waiting for. Help us to show endurance in our lives and to recognise it in ourselves and in others. Amen.

Value: Endurance

Story 6 The Promised One

Direction

STORYTELLERS NEEDED

Essential: Narrator, Simeon, Mary, Joseph

Additional: Voice of God, stall-holder, lead storyteller to help with the responses

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESENTATION (INCLUDING ALL THE CHILDREN)

- There are three scenes in this story: Simeon going to the temple, the temple courtyard, and the temple.
- Simeon needs to show time passing, as he goes backwards and forwards to the temple. Moving in a zigzag can make a journey look longer.
- Involve the children with a response at the indicated points – for example, the words “watched and waited”. Have everyone put their hands above their eyes, as if they are watching, and tell them to sit perfectly quiet and still for five seconds. Count it off with your fingers, so that everyone knows when to relax.

SUGGESTIONS FOR VISUAL IMPACT

- A large calendar showing days and weeks and months. Either rip off the pages or cross the dates off to indicate the passage of time.
- Cut-outs of a pair of turtledoves or pigeons and a stall.
- Baby doll used in ‘God’s Friend’, ‘The Secret Baby’, ‘The First Christmas’ (Year 1) and other stories.
- You could use the crowd prop from previous stories.
- Use a PowerPoint slide of the temple (as a backdrop) and perhaps the streets of Jerusalem for Simeon to walk down.

EXTRA RESOURCES

Download from openthebook.net/cv6

MY NOTES

Value: Endurance

Story 6 The Promised One

Simeon was a good man.

Simeon loved to worship God. Simeon spent time in the temple. He was a priest.

God made Simeon an amazing promise: **“You will not die until you set your eyes on Jesus – the Special One I have promised to send to my people.”**

So Simeon went to the temple in Jerusalem and watched and waited.

(Everyone puts hands above eyes, as if they are watching. Tell them to sit perfectly quiet and still for five seconds. Count it off with five fingers, so that everyone knows when to relax.)

He went to the temple the next day, and watched and waited again *(repeat the action)*.

He went the day after that, and again he watched and waited *(repeat action)*.

And he did that, day after day, week after week, month after month, for years!

One day, a man and a woman went to the temple. This was not unusual.

In those days, when a woman gave birth to her first child, the family brought a pair of turtledoves or pigeons to the temple and sacrificed them.

(Joseph speaks to the stall holders) **“Please can we buy two turtledoves? We will offer them to God. It’s our way of saying thank you to God for our firstborn baby son.”**

(Stall holders give Joseph two turtledoves.)

Simeon was there, of course, watching and waiting *(repeat action)*.

He’d watched this sort of thing happen, plenty of times.

But on that particular day, God’s spirit seemed to tell him, **“Simeon, this is the moment you have been waiting for.”** And so it was.

For the man was Joseph. The woman was Mary. And the baby was little Jesus.

Simeon took the child in his arms. He praised God. And he prayed this prayer:

“Thank you, God. Now I can die a happy man. For just as you promised, I have seen your salvation – the saviour – with my own eyes: The One you promised to send for all these years. The One who will reveal your love to the whole world and bring glory to your people.”

Mary and Joseph were amazed by the things he said. Joseph said, **“We know he is a very special baby and that he has a very special life ahead of him.”**

Simeon blessed them, too. And then he had a special message for Mary. A message that was not particularly happy, but which, in the end, would prove to be true.

“This child of yours will bring about the rise of many of God’s people – and the fall of many, too. He’ll show what’s really in their hearts. So he will face opposition. And sadly, that will bring pain to you as well.”

And then, having watched and waited (*repeat action*) and found what he was waiting for, Simeon left the temple. Mary and Joseph left the temple too, to wait for what the future for them and their baby son would bring.



Open the Book, Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG

Tel: 01793 418355

Email: enquiries@openthebook.net

Website: openthebook.net

Registration charity 232759

Copyright © The British and Foreign Bible Society 2017