

# THE WORDLESS BOOK

## HISTORY

*“Give me 26 lead soldiers and I will conquer the world!”*

This famous, and seemingly impossible, quote, was spoken by Benjamin Franklin. What he was referring to, of course, was the alphabet from which he could form words, sentences, print a newspaper, or publish a book. Yet the Wordless Book conquers without any words, and it has been doing so for well over 100 years.

It speaks through the universal language of colour.

In 1866, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, Charles Haddon Spurgeon preached a sermon entitled *“The Wordless Book.”*

In it he told of an old unnamed minister who had put three coloured pages together (black, red and white) and often looked at them to remind himself of his sinfulness, of Christ's blood shed for him, and the cleansing provided. Spurgeon then said, *“I want you, dear friends, to read this book this evening...may God the Holy Spirit help us to do so to our profit.”*

At a later stage, a gold/yellow page was added.

Though it is not known as to when this occurred, it added yet another dimension to this astounding book, the glories of Heaven. It is known, however, that the gold/yellow page was there in 1875 when D.L. Moody used it. In his biography written by his son William, we read, *“One of the most interesting meetings at Liverpool was the children's service, where Mr Moody and Mr Sankey were both present. Some of the papers put down the number in the Victoria Hall at twelve thousand, with an overflow meeting of about two thousand in the Henglers Circus. Mr Moody gave an address founded on a book with four leaves, black, red, white and gold, a sort of running interchange of simple yet searching questions and answers. Responses were very promptly given.”*

Fanny Crosby, the writer of the famous hymn Blessed Assurance loved children and loved telling them stories. It is recorded that she would carry a copy of The Wordless Book in her purse, and tell the children the story whenever they asked for one. They never seemed to grow tired of it.

Later in 1895, Amy Carmichael took the book to India. Elisabeth Elliot in her biography of Amy tells how Amy and her assistant made a satin flag of gold, black, red and white, hoisted it in the cart pulled by oxen and went from village to village in southern India telling the Gospel. Amy commented that it was *“A most useful text for an impromptu sermon.”* She also used a copy of the smaller book in smaller groups.

In 1939, Child Evangelism Fellowship began to print the book, to which they added a green page to represent Christian growth. They also published a leaflet explaining how to use the book and provided Scripture verses for each page. As a result, the Gospel message has been taken to over 80 countries by missionaries using The Wordless Book.

In some instances, a blue page, representing baptism, has been added, although this is not the standard.

## SOUTH AFRICAN FLAG

Living in South Africa we have the perfect flag that comprises of each of the colours represented in The Wordless Book (including the blue page).

This gives us a unique opportunity to effectively present the Gospel in a culturally relevant context. One needs to merely use each of the page details overleaf in the same way as with the book, just using the South African flag as your reference point.

Turn over for a full detailed guide of how to use your Wordless Book and Spread the Gospel Today.

# USING THE WORDLESS BOOK

<b>PAGE:</b>	<b>GOLD/YELLOW</b>	<b>BLACK</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>WHITE</b>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>BLUE</b>
<b>WHAT THE PAGE TEACHES:</b>	<b>WHO GOD IS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creator – He made you</li> <li>• Love – He loves you</li> <li>• He is in heaven</li> <li>• He is holy</li> </ul>	<b>SIN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of sin</li> <li>• Examples of sin</li> <li>• We are born in sin</li> <li>• Sin needs to be punished</li> <li>• Separation from God</li> </ul>	<b>THE SOLUTION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus is God, the Son</li> <li>• He is perfect</li> <li>• Took our punishment</li> <li>• Gave His blood</li> <li>• Died, rose again, and is now in Heaven</li> </ul>	<b>THE DECISION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inviting Jesus into our hearts</li> <li>• Assurance of salvation</li> </ul>	<b>SPIRITUAL GROWTH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confession of sin</li> <li>• Growing in Christ                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pray</li> <li>- Read and obey Bible</li> <li>- Go to church and/or Sunday School</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>WITNESSING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baptism</li> <li>• Sharing the Gospel</li> </ul>
<b>BIBLE VERSES:</b>	John 3:16a	Romans 3:23	Hebrews 9:22b 1 Corinthians 15:3-4	John 1:12 Hebrews 13:5b-6	1 John 1:9	Acts 2:38a
<b>HOW TO EXPLAIN THE TRUTHS:</b>	<p>Explain who God is:</p> <p>He made everything – the trees, the animals. He made you.</p> <p>God loves you and is preparing a place in Heaven for His children.</p> <p>He is holy and pure; and His home, Heaven, is Holy too.</p>	<p>Sin is anything that does not please God. Examples: lying, stealing, etc.</p> <p>The Bible tells us that we must be punished for our sins. That means to be separated from God forever.</p>	<p>Jesus, God's only begotten Son, never did anything wrong.</p> <p>He willingly took our punishment on the cross. God put the sin of the world on Jesus.</p> <p>Jesus gave His blood for us.</p> <p>Jesus died, but He did not stay dead, he rose again three days later.</p> <p>He is now in Heaven with the Father.</p>	<p>Invitation:</p> <p>Read and explain John 1:12. Review the message of salvation by asking them questions. Then let them pray their own prayer of salvation.</p> <p>Assurance:</p> <p>Whose child are you? How do you know? (John 1:12) Read and explain. Hebrews 13:5b-6 Will Jesus ever leave you?</p>	<p>Green reminds us of things that grow.</p> <p>Now that you believe in Jesus and asked Him to forgive you, you need to grow in your knowledge of Him by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confessing your sins</li> <li>• Growing in Christ</li> </ul> <p>Explain that they should regularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray</li> <li>• Read and obey the Bible</li> <li>• Go to church and/or Sunday School.</li> </ul>	<p>We are commanded to be baptised as a sign before other believers of the step we have taken.</p> <p>Tell others about what Jesus has done for us and that God desires to do the same for them.</p>
<b>SUGGESTED LINK BETWEEN PAGES:</b>	“But there is one thing that can never be in Heaven. That is sin.”	“But God has a wonderful plan so that you and I do not have to be punished for our sins.	“And now because of what Jesus did for you, you can have your sins forgiven.”	“When you become God's child, He wants you to get to know Him better.”	“Finally, the last thing that you need to do is to share this with others.”	Give them literature. Have them say a thank you prayer. Pray out loud for them.

**Download a sample script showing how to use the Wordless Book from our website at [www.gracemedia.co.za](http://www.gracemedia.co.za).**

# SAMPLE SCRIPT FOR THE WORDLESS BOOK

## Introduction

**Teacher:** Hello. How are you?

**Student:** Fine

**Teacher:** What is your name?

**Student:** \_ \_ \_

**Teacher:** I'm glad to meet you \_ \_ \_ . My name is \_ \_ \_ . I have a book I would like to show you. It is not just any book. [Show child the book] See, it does not have any words in it, only colours. But these colours tell us the most amazing story. A true story. One that comes from God's book, the Bible. Would you like me to tell you the story?

**Student:** Yes please, I love stories.

**Teacher:** The last page tells the most exciting part, so let's start there.

[Turn to the gold/yellow page]

## The gold/Yellow Page

**Teacher:** What colour is this page?

**Student:** Gold/Yellow

**Teacher:** It is really shiny isn't it? Do you know what this page reminds me of?

**Student:** No!

**Teacher:** It reminds me of heaven. Heaven is the place where God lives. The Bible tells us that in Heaven the streets are made of gold. The Bible also tells us that no-one is ever sick in Heaven, no-one dies, there is no night, and that everyone is always happy. Heaven is also a perfect place where no-one does anything wrong. No-one hurts anybody or takes anything that does not belong to them. But the most amazing thing about Heaven is that God the Father, and His Son, Jesus, are there. Do you know who God is \_ \_ \_ ?

**Student:** He's the guy who made everything.

**Teacher:** That's right \_ \_ \_ . God made everything. The earth, the animals, the plants, even the moon, sun and stars. He also made you and He loves you. [Show them John 3:16] See here what the Bible tells us, "*For God so loved the world ...*" This means that God loves every person on earth, including you and me. And because He made us, He wants us to be a part of His family so that we can live in Heaven with Him one day. But, there is a problem [turn to the Black page]. Remember I told you that Heaven is a perfect place?

**Student:** Yes.

## The Black Page

**Teacher:** Well that means that sin cannot be there. Do you know what sin is?

**Student:** The naughty things we do?

**Teacher:** Yes. Sin is everything that we do, say and even think, that makes God sad. Can you think of some of the bad things that people do that makes God sad?

**Student:** Lying, stealing, fighting?

**Teacher:** Yes, very good. All of those things do make God sad. The Bible also says that “*For all have sinned...*” [Show them Romans 3:23]. All means every single person who has ever lived. It means me, and it means you. We sin because we were born with an attitude of wanting to do whatever we want. God tells us that we need to be punished for our sin, and that punishment is death. That means to be separated from God forever. There is nothing that you or I can do to escape that punishment. There is nothing that we could ever do that would please Him. So God made a way for each one of us so that our sin could be forgiven and we do not have to be punished for our sin [turn to the Red page].

## The Red Page

**Teacher:** Remember I told you earlier that God loves us all?

**Student:** Yes!

**Teacher:** Well if you read further it tells us that “*He gave His only Son*” to us [show them John 3:16 again]. Do you know who God's Son is?

**Student:** No.

**Teacher:** It is Jesus. He came to earth as a baby at the very first Christmas, and grew up to be a man. He did what no other person could ever do, he lived a perfect life. That means that He did not sin. Then one day, wicked men put a crown of thorns on His head and nailed Him to a wooden cross. When you cut yourself, what comes out of the sore?

**Student:** Blood.

**Teacher:** And what colour is that blood?

**Student:** Red.

**Teacher:** That's right. That is why this page is red. It reminds us of the blood that came out of Jesus hands and feet. The Bible tells us that without the giving of blood, there can be no forgiveness of sin [show them Hebrews 9:22b]. So Jesus took the punishment that you and I deserved for our sins. The Bible tells us that while Jesus was hanging on the cross, God put all the sin of the people of the world onto Jesus.

Jesus died and was buried [show them 1 Corinthians 15:3-4]. The Bible says, “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” This was the work that Jesus had to come and do to save us from sin.

After three days the most wonderful thing happened. Jesus came alive again and walked out of the grave. He walked on the earth and many people saw and spoke to Him. Then He went back to heaven and is there right now with the Father.

Because of what Jesus did for you, you can now have your sins forgiven. [Turn to the White page]

### The White Page

**Teacher:** God wants to forgive you of your sins, take them away and make you His child. Would you like to read what He says to you?

**Student:** Yes please. [Have them read John 1:12]

**Teacher:** Let us look at that one thing at a time. *“Received Him...to those who believed in His name.”* You need to receive Him, take Him as your own, by believing in Him with all your heart. To believe that He died and rose again so that your sins can be forgiven. You need to do this by admitting that you have sinned and believe that only He can take those sins away. Then you will be forgiven. Then He will put His life in you and you will become His child. That is what the rest of the verse means when it says, *“...He gave the right to become children of God.”*

You can tell God right now that you have sinned and that you believe that He dies for you. Would you like to do that?

**Student:** Yes!

**Teacher:** Why do you need to do that?

**Student:** Because I have done things that make God sad.

**Teacher:** What has God done for you?

**Student:** He died on the cross and rose again to take my punishment.

**Teacher:** What do you want to tell God right now?

**Student:** That I have sinned and that I want Him to forgive me.

**Teacher:** OK then. Let us bow our heads and you can tell Jesus those things in your own words.

**Student:** Jesus, I know that I have done wrong things that have made you sad. I believe that you took my punishment and died for me. I also believe that you came to life again three days later and are now with your Father in heaven. I ask that you will forgive me of my sins and make me your child. Amen!

**Teacher:** Whose child are you now?

**Student:** God's.

**Teacher:** How do you know?

**Student:** Because I just prayed to receive Jesus like the Bible told me to.

**Teacher:** Let me show you another verse [show them Hebrews 13:5b and read it with them]. Jesus will never leave you. You can also speak to Him anytime you want to, and in any place or situation.

You can put that promise on your fingers and carry it with you always. Jesus [little finger]... will [ring finger]... never [middle finger]... leave [pointer]... me [thumb pointing to yourself].

Now that you are God's child, He wants you to get to know Him better [turn to the Green page].

### The Green Page

**Teacher:** The colour green reminds me of things that are growing, like trees, leaves and grass. This page reminds me of the new life that you have received from God. You are now like a newborn baby in God's family, and He wants you to grow stronger everyday by learning more about Him.

As you learn more about Jesus, you will learn how to please Him. He will also give you the power and strength to do what is right. But when you do something that makes God sad, there is something that you can do.

**Student:** [Have them read 1 John 1:9]

**Teacher:** God knows when you sin, but He wants you to confess your sin. Confess means to tell on yourself to God and to admit that you were wrong. As soon as you realise that you were wrong, tell God straight away. He will then forgive you of that sin because that is what He has promised to do. Then ask Him to help you never to do it again. And guess what, He will give you the power and strength to do it.

There are four things that you can do as God's child so that you can learn about Jesus.

Pray or talk to God everyday. You can talk to Him at anytime and in any place. He is your Heavenly Father and He wants you to tell Him everything.

Read and obey the Bible. God gave us the Bible so that we can know who He is and what He has done. It is an excellent way to get to know Him. You can begin in the book of Mark. Ask one of your parents or a teacher to explain anything to you that you do not understand. [Give them a Gospel of Mark, or show them where it is in a Bible]

Go to church and Sunday School. You can learn even more about God there.

### The Blue Page [Optional – can be incorporated into the Green page]

**Teacher:** Finally, tell others. [Turn to the Blue page]. Tell them first about what God has done for you. Begin by asking your minister to baptise you. Being baptised is a sign to others who believe in Jesus that He has forgiven you. The blue reminds me of the water that the minister will use to baptise you. Your minister will explain more about baptism to you this if you ask him. Then tell those who do not know about Jesus the same things I have just told you and that they too need to have their sins forgiven.

**Before the student leaves:**

- Give them a tract or other available literature appropriate to their age. Their own copy of the Wordless book is also good in that it is a complete visual reminder for themselves that they too can use to tell their family and friends.
- Have the student say a thank you pray for what God has done for them.
- Pray out loud for them before they leave.