

THE WORDLESS BOOK

by Gwen Moffat Davis

What is the Wordless Book? It is simply what it says. A book without words, using colors to preach the gospel. It started with black, red, and white in 1866 by an unknown man in England. It became known when Charles Spurgeon used it in his sermon in 1866 at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London. Later, William Moody used the booklet with the gold page in 1875.

Since it's humble beginning, millions of children and adults have received Jesus in many nations through this little booklet. Many ministries print and sell various versions of The Wordless Book. Child Evangelism Fellowship publishes a visualized teaching book and a flannel-graph version. ICMI added the blue page in 1988. Others have added other colors, different meanings, made gospel bracelets, etc., but the effectiveness remains the same.

PREPARATION TO TELL THE STORY

The teacher should have a very large Wordless Book made of colored tag board, or even colored cloth sewn as a large book. If need be, she can also use a small booklet or the bracelet she is wearing.

In advance, the teacher should look up the scriptures on the *Wordless Book Scriptures* page and be thoroughly familiar with the Biblical basis for each page. Then, the story can be given in her own words in a variety of ways, but it will agree with the Bible.

TELLING THE STORY

Many have found that it is best to begin with the Gold page, telling of Heaven and God's love, though the logical order is to begin with the Dark page. We say "dark" instead of "black" because of the racial connotation in the USA with the color black. Show only the color you are talking about and hold it so all can see. Be sure to have the children repeat the meaning of each page, before moving to the next page. If they are un-churched children or have never heard of Jesus, the Red page is the most important! Be sure to take time to tell who Jesus is, what He did on earth, and about the power in His blood, etc. ICMI teachers often include the Gospel Squares lesson on this page. If they are ready to be saved on the White page, do not go ahead to the Blue or Green pages until after you have prayed with the children.

THE STORY

Hello Boys and Girls! I have a very special story to tell you today. In fact, it is the most important story in all the world! See this book? It contains a special story. Do you notice anything different about this book? It has no words or pictures!!

We are going to start in the back of the book.

*Let's turn to the **Gold page**. This page tells us of a city where the streets are paved with gold. Is that New York? Mumbai? London? NO! This city is called HEAVEN. It has walls of jewels and gates of BIG pearls. It is never dark there. There is no sickness or sadness. No one will steal your pencil or your toy. Mom and Dad will not fight. There is not even any dying there. It is a beautiful city, full of love. This city is God's home. The One, True, Living God, the Creator of the earth.....It is His home. Guess what? He wants YOU to come and live there with Him someday. He has even prepared a mansion for you to live in. He loves you and wants you to be with Him! What is the meaning of this Gold page? HEAVEN!!*

*But, there is one thing that God will never allow into Heaven. Let's turn to the **Dark page**. This page represents the darkness in our hearts. The Bible, God's book, tells us that everyone on earth has been born with sin in their hearts (the eternal place inside each person). We have ALL sinned.....rich people, poor people, old people, young people, dark people, light people. What is sin? It is disobedience to the Holy God. It is when we want to do what WE want and not what He tells us. Some examples are: stealing, lying, cheating, swearing, etc. Can you give some examples? How many of you know that you have sinned? Yes, we all have. That means that we cannot go to live with this wonderful God in Heaven. BUT, God still loves us, even though we have sinned. What is the meaning of this Dark page? SIN!!*

*The Bible, God's word, tells us that He knew we would all sin and would need a Savior from our sins. Let's turn to the **Red page**. Many years ago, He had a law that there had to be shedding of the blood of a pure white lamb given as an offering for man's sins. For awhile, His people faithfully offered a lamb for their sins. But God had a better plan!! He sent His own son, Jesus to earth. He was known as THE LAMB OF GOD! He left beautiful Heaven to be born on earth. Do you think He was born in a mansion? In a governmental palace? No! He was born in a humble stable where they kept animals. He always obeyed His earthly Mom and Dad.. He grew up just like you. Once He was six years old, seven years old, ten years old just like you. But one thing was different, He was tempted to sin, but He never sinned. Never!*

When He was 30 years old, the power of God's Holy Spirit came upon Him. He began to preach powerful messages from His Father God. He began to heal blind eyes, deaf ears, and even raise the dead! (Act out Jesus healing the blind, the leper, or raising the little girl from the dead) Everywhere He went He destroyed the work of God's enemy, Satan. He did wonderful things. But some religious people did not like Him. They lied about Him and brought Him before a judge. He was beaten 39 times, until the blood ran down His body. He was nailed to a cross (act it out). The Bible, God's Word, says that Jesus could have called 10,000 angels to come and rescue Him, but He didn't. As the LAMB OF GOD, He willingly took the punishment for MY sins and for YOURS!! Jesus paid for your sins once and for all. What is the meaning of this Red page? THE BLOOD OF JESUS!!

*But that is not the end of the story. Let's turn to the **White page**. They put Him in a guarded stone cave-tomb. His enemies thought He was finished. But God's Holy Spirit raised Him from the dead!! He was seen by 100s of people. He is still alive today! He is seated at the right hand of His Father God in Heaven. He comes to us through His Holy Spirit. He is present with us right now!! If you want to repent (be very sorry) for all of your sins, and you believe that Jesus is the true Lamb of God, you can pray right now. (Give the invitation) What is the meaning of this White page? CLEAN HEART!!*

*What color is this? **Blue**. What color is the sky? Does the sky cover the whole earth? That reminds us of God's Holy Spirit. After we believe in Jesus, Holy Spirit is always with us. Every time we are tempted to sin, He warns us. He leads us to do what is right. He wants to make us more and more like Jesus. The Bible, God's Word, says that as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God!! Holy Spirit want to teach us how to live as sons and daughters of the Most High God. Our parents cannot always be with us, but Holy Spirit is always with us and even lives IN us!! What is the meaning of this blue page? HOLY SPIRIT!!*

*Now, let's look at the cover of the book. What color is this? **Green!!** What color are the leaves of a tree? The leaves on a plant? **Green**. What do plants need in order to grow? Sunshine and water. The Bible, God's Word, says that we are like newborn babies, needing the "milk of His Word" in order to grow. Just like the tree needs nourishment to grow, we need to be spiritually nourished to grow in God. We need to read or hear God's Word, meet with others who love Him, learn to talk to Him everyday (prayer), and tell others how they can become His child! (See 5 Things Lesson) What does this green page represent? **GROWING!!** (Give the opportunity to receive Jesus, if you haven't already done so.)*

Let's review.....

Then show each color several times in and out of order to help them remember the meaning of each color.

CHILDREN AS EVANGELISTS

The children can be given small booklets or bracelets at the beginning of the meeting and follow each color as it is told. However, many prefer to give the booklet at the end of the meeting, requiring the child to tell a teacher the meaning of each color before receiving the booklet or bracelet as a gift. ICMI requires them to know the story AND promise to tell it to at least 5 others who have never heard it. In that way, the children become immediate evangelists!!

One day, after a small Bible Club outreach, the children prayed for salvation. I told them to go home and tell the Wordless Book Story to those who had never heard it. One child did so and led her parents to Jesus. They later became leaders in their church. I never knew what happened until several years later, when the parents told me. Teacher, we will never know all of the "fruit" until we get to Heaven!