

# *Evangelistic Crafts That Keep On Speaking*



### **Where these crafts can be used:**

- Community outreaches, camps, missions, etc.

### **Why use crafts created around the "Wordless Book" colors:**

- In order to use the *physical* and *visual* as a platform to convey the *spiritual* to children.

### **Things to consider when preparing:**

- Age of children  
Balancing the complexity of each craft, for the specific age of the children, can be a challenge. Take into consideration, the reality that some crafts will simply be too complicated for the little ones, or that the older ones will speed through a simple craft.
- Timing  
If the craft will be completed quickly, how will the *extra* time be spent? If the craft requires *more* time than the amount allotted, can the craft easily be sent home with the children to finish later (with instructions)? *The more complicated the crafts are, the less time you will have to share the gospel.*
- Pricing  
When preparing, consider the budget you are working with.

### **Purchasing supplies:**

1. When deciding upon what crafts to use, always test the particular craft by making a completed one, so as to know for sure that it will work well with the time and age element. Do this before purchasing larger quantities of supplies!
2. As you prepare, be sure to purchase supplies well in advance of your event. Depending on if supplies are purchased in store or online, the following scenarios are possible: postponed shipping time, possibility of a mistaken order and receiving the wrong product, and the possibility of back orders.
3. Test craft supplies before making large purchases. Test size, color, quality, etc.
4. IMPORTANT: Products *often* vary in color from one order to the next. Calculate your needed amount of supplies and place one larger order, rather than several smaller orders, to avoid differences in shades of colors.

### **Preparation before event:**

Craft meetings – why?

1. Craft teachers must know the craft in order to instruct the child in making the craft.
2. There might be lots of things to measure, cut, fold, stamp, tie, bag-up, count, etc.

Craft meetings – when?

1. Enough time before your event. You can then double check numbers and supplies.

Craft meetings – how many?

1. However many are needed. The more prepared the leader is, the more will be accomplished during the meeting and thus fewer meetings will be needed.

### **Websites and craft stores:**

- [www.shipwreckbeads.com](http://www.shipwreckbeads.com), [www.ssww.com](http://www.ssww.com), [www.firemountaingems.com](http://www.firemountaingems.com), [www.primitiveearthbeads.com](http://www.primitiveearthbeads.com)
- Craft Stores: Michaels and Hobby Lobby

# History of the Wordless Book

It's been around a long time now--well over a hundred years. That little Wordless Book. Whose brain-child was it? When did it first make an appearance?

"Give me 26 lead soldiers and I will conquer the world," exclaimed Benjamin Franklin. He referred, of course, to the alphabet from which he could form words and sentences, print a newspaper, produce a book. But the Wordless Book conquers without any words. It speaks through the universal language of color.

That little book started with but three pages---black, red and white. In 1866, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, Charles Spurgeon preached a sermon entitled "The Wordless Book." In it he told of an old unnamed minister who had put three pages together and often looked at them to remind himself of his sinfulness, of Christ's blood poured out 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 do so to our profit."

When was the gold page added? We do not know but it brought another dimension to the book, depicting the glories of Heaven. We do know it was there nine years later when D. L. Moody used it. In the biography written by his son, William R. Moody, and published in 1900, he records:

*One of the most interesting meetings at Liverpool (January/February 1875) 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 inter-change of simple yet searching questions and answers. Responses were very promptly given.*

Who hasn't heard of blind Fanny Crosby, the author of *Blessed Assurance, Saved by Grace* and hundreds more old hymns? Fanny loved children. "Tell us a story, Fanny. Tell us another," they begged. Fanny would take from her purse a Wordless Book and tell them the story of which they never tired.

In 1895 the book traveled to India with Amy Carmichael. In Elisabeth Elliot's recent biography of her, *A Chance to Die*, she tells how Amy and her helper 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. "A most useful text for an impromptu sermon," Amy commented. In smaller groups she used the little book itself.

My first acquaintance with the book came in 1924. "Look what I found at the Bible bookstore," a fellow-student exuded as she burst into our training class one morning. "It will be great to show the boys and girls the way of salvation and lead them to Christ." The bookstore was operated by Dr. Harry A. Ironside before he became pastor of Moody Memorial Church in Chicago. The book was published by Pickering and Ingles in London.

When Child Evangelism Fellowship began to print that little book 15 years later, they added the final color, green, to represent Christian growth. They also published a leaflet telling how to use the book and giving Scripture verses for each page. In the ensuing years the message has been taken to over 80 countries by missionaries to boys and girls. Thousands of national workers have been taught how to use the Wordless Book with their own children.

In the early 1950's Russell and Barbara Reed of Overseas Missionary Fellowship (formerly China Inland Mission) sought out hidden unknown tribes deep in the jungles of the Philippines. They used the Wordless Book with marked effect with these primitive peoples. When Russell explained the red page, light broke over them. They had a custom of sacrificing chickens to placate the spirits of whom they

were deadly afraid, but now they were hearing that the Son of God had already been sacrificed for their sins. How wonderful this was to them! The little book made a big contribution toward founding the church of Jesus Christ among them.

At Urbana '87, Dr. Helen Roseveare, an outstanding medical missionary, told thousands of missionary candidates and would-be candidates of her experience in Uganda in 1972. A native herdsman approached her asking, "Are you the one sent by a great God to tell us something?" Taking her five-color Wordless Book she related, "I sat down beside him and in 25 minutes he had put his trust in Jesus Christ."

Arleigh Martin, Middle East regional director for CEF had left Cypress to touch down in the Arabian Gulf countries. He carried with him a deep, nagging cough.

"Do the colors in your suit pocket mean anything?" the Muslim X-ray technician asked when Arleigh landed in hospital. The technician was eyeing the corners of five colored handkerchiefs extended upwards from the missionary's pocket! "They remind me of a story I heard 45 years ago as a five-year-old boy in the mountains of Lebanon," he continued.

"Why, yes, it's the same Wordless Book story!" Arleigh assured him.

"Please tell it to me again," requested the technician.

Arleigh briefly told the story of salvation with Scripture and the book of colors; gold for Heaven, black for the darkness of sin, red for the blood of Christ, white for the clean heart, green to grow in the knowledge of God.

Tears streamed down the man's face. "God sent you here to encourage me today. It's been a renewal!" he said as he embraced Arleigh in a big bear hug (Middle East style). Apparently CEF's first missionary in Lebanon told this man the story years ago and he has been a secret believer, working and living in the midst of Islam.

"Do you have a book like this that I could have?" he asked.

"Yes, and here are some Bible verses for you to read to go with each page. Do you have a Bible?"

"I have an Arabic Bible," he answered.

"Why don't we have a word of prayer before I leave?"

The technician agreed. But first he closed all the windows and doors so no one in the hospital compound could hear the praying. Arleigh prayed, "Lord, help this believer in You to grow...Amen."

Another big embrace~ "Thank you for coming! This has been the greatest day in my life for years."

Yes, the Wordless Book is still alive and well on planet earth. Have you ever used it to lead someone to receive Jesus Christ as his Savior? Try it! You will not only like it but experience unspeakable joy as you share the Gospel through "that little book."

### GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

|                                 |                                 |                                     |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| HIS<br>LOVE<br><i>John 3:16</i> | MY<br>SIN<br><i>Romans 3:23</i> | HIS<br>BLOOD<br><i>Hebrews 9:22</i> | MY<br>FAITH<br><i>John 1:12</i> | NEW<br>LIFE IN<br>CHRIST<br><i>2 Peter 3:18</i> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|

yellow

black

red

white

green

## **Gold or Yellow**

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The key thought on this page is to teach who God is, God's love for each person, and that God lives in Heaven.

GOD IS CREATOR: He made the heavens, the earth, and everything in them (Genesis 1-2).

GOD LOVES PEOPLE: He not only made you, but He loves you. John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (show verse). God loves you and me!

GOD IS HOLY: This means that God is perfect. God always does what is right and never does what is wrong.

GOD LIVES IN A PERFECT PLACE CALLED HEAVEN: Heaven is such an amazing place. The Bible says that the street in Heaven is made of pure gold...imagine what the rest of Heaven must be like. Heaven is not like here. No one ever gets hurt, and no one ever cries or is sad. The best part about Heaven is that God lives there. Because God is perfect and Heaven is a perfect place, there is something that cannot be in Heaven.

*Link Sentence: "There is one thing that can never enter Heaven. Do you know what it is? It's sin."*

## **Dark or Black**

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The key thought on the dark page is that sin separates us from God.

DEFINITION OF SIN: Sin is anything we say, think, or do that does not please God. Sin is breaking God's rules. Sin is being less than perfect. Some examples of things that God calls sin are stealing, lying, and cheating. There are many others. Can you think of any?

WHY SIN IS A PROBLEM: Sin is bad because sin separates us from God. Sin hurts us and it hurts the people around us. Imagine that you were in a dark room and it was so dark you couldn't see anything. What would happen if you tried to go to the other side? (You would trip, fall, and get hurt.) Sin is the same way; it hurts us and the devil wants to ruin our lives with sin and keep us away from God. But God has another plan!

ALL HAVE SINNED: The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23 that everyone has sinned (show verse). That does not just mean people like robbers and murderers. We may think that we are good when we compare ourselves to others, but we have to judge ourselves by what God says is right and wrong. None of us is perfect; we have all sinned.

SINFUL NATURE: No one had to teach us how to do wrong things. Each one of us was born with a nature that wants to sin. At the beginning it wasn't like this. God made everything good and perfect, but people chose to sin and now we all have a desire to sin.

PUNISHMENT FOR SIN: When we do something that is against the rules, or against the law, we deserve to be punished, don't we? God tells us in His Word that sin has to be punished. God's punishment for sin is to be separated from Him forever and ever (Romans 6:23). That is a terrible punishment, but a fair one.

*Link Sentence: "God has made a way so that we don't have to be punished for our sin."*

## **Red**

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The key thought on the red page is to teach what the solution for sin is and the way to be forgiven.

GOD'S SON WAS BORN: We celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. Jesus is God the Son. Jesus has always been; He has no beginning and no ending. Jesus came to earth; He was completely God and completely man at the same time. Like God the Father, Jesus is perfect.

JESUS TOOK THE PUNISHMENT YOU AND I DESERVE: We can't go to Heaven when we die, just by trying to be really good on this earth. Jesus loved us so much that He died to take the punishment for sin that we deserve. Because Jesus had never done anything wrong, He did not deserve to be punished, but He chose to die.

JESUS GAVE HIS BLOOD: Jesus suffered when He died for you and for me. He was wounded by evil men and He bled. The Bible tells us that without the giving of blood, sin can't be forgiven (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus gave His life, His blood for you and for me. When we see the color red, we can remember that Jesus died for us.

JESUS DIED FOR OUR SIN: When Jesus was dying on the cross He said, "It is finished." Jesus had finished making the way for people to be forgiven and rescued from sin. It is now possible for us to be with our Creator for all eternity.

JESUS CAME BACK TO LIFE: Jesus died and was buried, but He didn't stay dead. Three days later He came back to life. When Jesus rose from the dead, He proved that He is God and that He has power over death.

JESUS LIVES IN HEAVEN WITH HIS FATHER, GOD: After Jesus came back to life, He went back to Heaven. He lives there with God, His Father.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - "...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

*Link Sentence: "Because of what Jesus, God the Son has done, you and I can have our sins forgiven!"*

## Clean or White

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*The key thought on this page is to teach about receiving what God has done for us.*

The Bible says...(read John 1:12)

HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION: We can be forgiven of our sins by admitting that we have sinned and broken God's rules, believing that Jesus died to take our punishment, and praying to God, asking Him to forgive us and to make us His child. When God forgives us, He makes us a part of His wonderful family (we are still in our own family, but we are adopted by God and we become His child). White reminds us that God can cleanse our hearts of sin.

**QUESTION:** Would you like to ask Jesus to forgive you of your sin right now?

OTHER QUESTIONS: Ask questions that will help you to know if they truly understand their need and God's way of salvation. (i.e. "What is sin? Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? What happened after Jesus was dead for three days? How can we have our sins forgiven and go to Heaven?")

CONCLUSION: If he/she wants to receive Jesus as their Savior, you may want to lead them in a prayer of salvation or give an example of what to say to God. (i.e. "Tell God you are a sinner and want to turn away from your sins. Tell Him that you believe in Jesus Christ, that He is God's perfect Son who died for your sin, was buried, and came alive again. Ask Him to save you from your sin and to make you His child.")

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION: Show them whose child they are if they have asked Christ to forgive them (John 1:12) God promises to stay with His children (Hebrews 13:5b). You can use five fingers to show the words, "I will never leave you."

*Link Sentence: "Once you have become God's child, He wants you to get to know Him better and to live for Him."*

## GREEN

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*The key thought on the green page is to teach about growing closer to God.*

CONFESION OF SIN: When we become God's children, God sends the Holy Spirit to live within us. The Holy Spirit is God and He gives us the power to say "no" to sin. However, when we choose to sin and we do not obey God, the Bible tells us what to do (1 John 1:9). Teach the importance of confessing sin to God and how to do it by praying to Him. The Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9). The Holy Spirit will help us to be like Christ Jesus, but we will not be perfect until we get to Heaven, so that's why we need to continually ask Jesus to forgive us, and He will.

GROWING IN JESUS: What does the color green remind you of? What do plants need so that they will grow? There are things that each of us need so that we can grow closer to Jesus and get to know Him better. There are many things that can help us do this, here are some:

- God wants us to talk to Him every day. We can pray to Him at any time, even during the night. We can talk to God about anything and everything; He cares (1 Peter 5:7). God hears our prayers and will answer.
- Reading the Bible is the way that we hear God's Word. God gave us the Bible so that we could know Him better. His Word is wonderful. It's a good idea to read the Bible every day and talk to God about what you read.
- The Bible tells us to gather together with other people who love Jesus. We can do this by going to church. At church, we are taught the Bible; we can seek God with others and worship Him altogether.
- It's also very important for us to obey God's Word. When we obey what Jesus tells us to do, we will know Him better and love Him more (John 14:21). Every day you can read the Bible and find out what God wants you to do and then ask Him for help and for power so that you can obey Him.
- Maybe you could share with other people the good news of Jesus, our Savior. God loves all people and doesn't want anybody to perish. Never forget the great thing God has done for you!

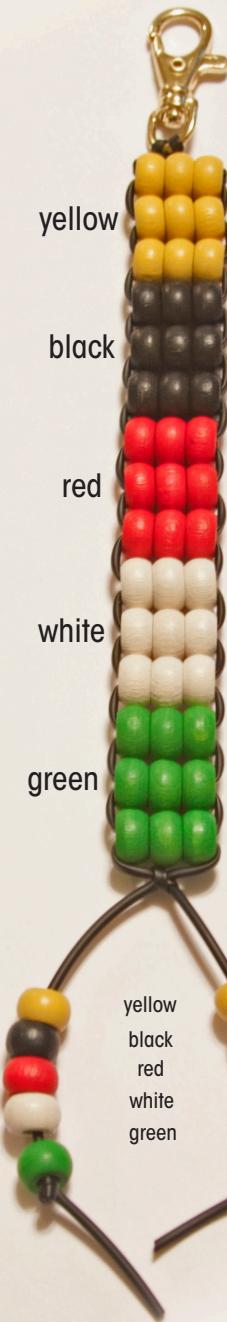
Jesus is preparing a home in Heaven for those who are His children. One day we will be with Him forever in a perfect place, where there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain; we will be with our Savior and all who love Him (Revelation 21:22).

**"O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever." Psalm 30:12b**

# Back Pack Clip

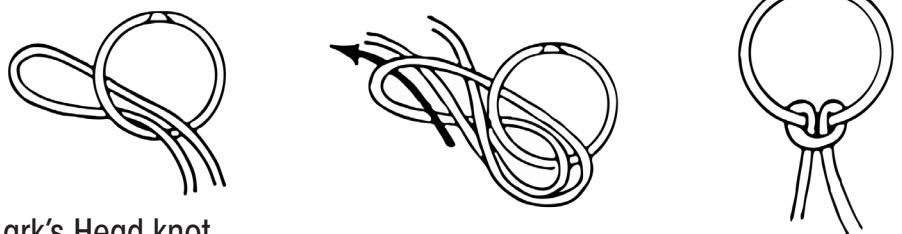
## EACH PROJECT REQUIRES:

- 11 yellow wooden beads
- 11 black wooden beads
- 11 red wooden beads
- 11 white wooden beads
- 11 green wooden beads
- 1 piece of Pony Bead Lacing, 45" long (cut on an angle)
- 1 gold Trigger Snap hook
- Felt square
- Scissors



## INSTRUCTIONS:

Fold line in half. Make sure the ends are even and then make a Lark's Head knot to attach the cord to the gold Trigger Snap hook.



Lark's Head knot

- Row #01 - string one end of the line through 3 yellow beads. String the other line through the opposite end, all the way through the same 3 beads.

*Continue these same instructions with the following rows:*

- Row #02 - 3 yellow beads  
 Row #03 - 3 yellow beads

- Row #04 - 3 black beads  
 Row #05 - 3 black beads  
 Row #06 - 3 black beads

- Row #07 - 3 red beads  
 Row #08 - 3 red beads  
 Row #09 - 3 red beads

- Row #10 - 3 white beads  
 Row #11 - 3 white beads  
 Row #12 - 3 white beads

- Row #13 - 3 green beads  
 Row #14 - 3 green beads  
 Row #15 - 3 green beads



Tie the two line ends together in an overhand knot, close to the bottom of the green beads.

On one piece of line, string on beads in the following order: 1 yellow, 1 black, 1 red, 1 white, and 1 green. Tie a double or triple knot below green bead, leaving about 1" of extra line above beads. Repeat this step on the other line. Cut off excess line from end.

# Beaded Cross

## INSTRUCTIONS:

**1. Preparation:** Fold the black lacing in half and tie a knot to form a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " loop for hanging the cross. After tying the knot, the **vertical** portion of the cross will be beaded first, beginning with yellow.

**2. Beading the vertical portion:** for  row #01, string one piece of the lacing through 3 yellow beads. String the other lacing through the same beads in the opposite direction, all the way through the 3 beads. Pull the lacing taut, until the beads are close to the loop hanger. Continue to bead in this manner, following the pattern below. Keep lacing pulled taut, so that the design will stay neat and intact.

Row #02 - 3 yellow beads

Row #03 - 3 yellow beads

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Row #04 - 3 black beads

Row #05 - 3 black beads

Row #06 - 3 black beads

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Row #07 - 3 red beads

Row #08 - 3 red beads

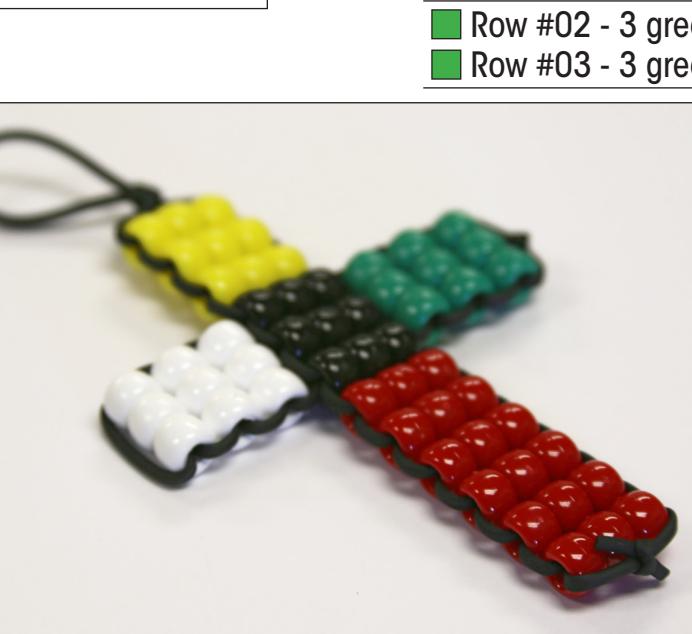
Row #09 - 3 red beads

Row #10 - 3 red beads

Row #11 - 3 red beads

Row #12 - 3 red beads

Bring the two pieces of lacing together, under the last row of red, and tie a knot. Trim off excess lacing.



## EACH PROJECT REQUIRES:

- 2 pieces of black Pony Bead Lacing, each 36" long (cut on an angle)
- 9 yellow Pony Beads
- 9 black Pony Beads
- 18 red Pony Beads
- 9 white Pony Beads
- 9 green Pony Beads
- Felt square
- Scissors

**3. Beading the horizontal portion:** for  row #01, take a new piece of lacing and string one end of the lacing through 3 white beads. Taking the other end of the lacing, thread through the same 3 beads in the opposite direction. Bringing the beads to the center of the lacing, pull the string taut. String 2 more rows of white beads:

Row #02 - 3 white beads

Row #03 - 3 white beads

After completing 3 rows of white, take one end of the lacing and thread it through the first row of black. Do the same with the next string of lacing, but threading it through the third row of black, until both strings come out on the other side. Now, thread three green beads onto one of the lacings and then thread the other lacing through the same beads, going the opposite direction. Continue this pattern, stringing 2 more rows of beads:

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Row #02 - 3 green beads

Row #03 - 3 green beads

Finish the cross, by bringing the two pieces of lacing together, under the last row of green, and tie a knot. Trim off excess lacing.

# Small Bead Bracelet

## EACH PROJECT REQUIRES:

- Stretch magic line (1mm diameter) cut line 13" long
- 12-14 yellow beads
- 12-14 black beads
- 12-14 red beads
- 12-14 white beads
- 12-14 green beads
- Felt square
- Scissors

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Give each child a piece of felt to put beads on. You will be giving out the beads one color at a time in the order of the "Wordless Book" colors (12-14 beads of each color depending on size of wrist). Start with yellow beads, then black, red, white, and green. Explain the meaning of the "Wordless Book" colors as they do each bead section. After the bracelet is finished, help the children tie the knot, by tying it how a balloon is tied. Cut line when finished. Have children make one bracelet following the five-color pattern. After that, if desired, they can make more bracelets as time permits, in the pattern and colors of their choosing. They might enjoy making rings too.



# Cross Necklace

## INSTRUCTIONS:

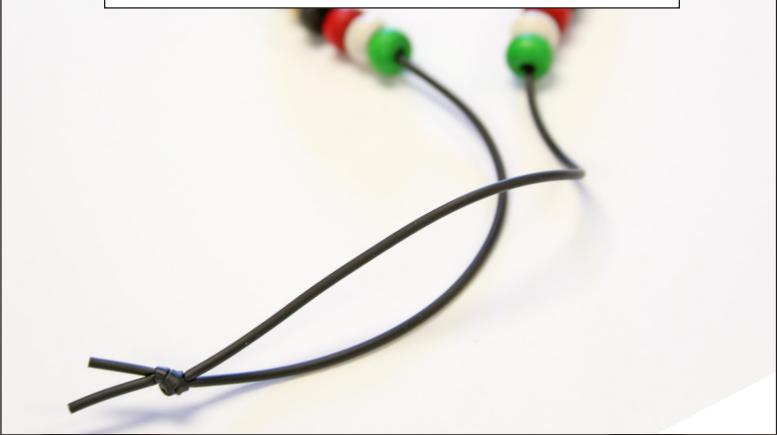
Begin by threading on the cross and pushing it to the center of the line, so as to hang in the center of the necklace. Start first on one side of the cross and thread 5 yellow beads. Next, thread 5 yellow beads on opposite side of cross. Alternating between one side and the other, thread 5 black beads on one side, followed by 5 black beads on the other side. Repeat this pattern using the "Wordless Book" colors; yellow, black, red, white, green. After the last green bead has been threaded, thread 1 bead of each color, beginning with yellow, on both sides of necklace. Next, tie both lines together making sure the necklace is big enough to slip over the child's head! Cut off excess line from end. As they work, explain the meaning of the "Wordless Book" colors.

## OPTIONAL:

Or, instead of alternating between beading both sides, bead only one side first, until all five colors are completed. As the children bead the first side, explain the gospel through each color. Then, as they begin beading the other side, you can gently encourage them to say what each color means as you ask them questions. After both sides are beaded with the five colors, add 1 bead of each of the five colors, beginning with yellow, on both sides.

## EACH PROJECT REQUIRES:

- Black Pony Bead Lacing, 30" long
- Wooden cross
- 12 yellow wooden beads
- 12 black wooden beads
- 12 red wooden beads
- 12 white wooden beads
- 12 green wooden beads
- Felt square
- Scissors



# Prayer Box

## EACH PROJECT REQUIRES:

- Wooden box
- "Wordless Book" color sequins (for 2nd-3rd & 4th-6th grade)
- "Wordless Book" color Pom Poms (for 5 years-1st grade)
- Liquid glue
- "Wordless Book" color markers
- Hand wipes
- Small "Wordless Book"
- Small papers for prayer requests
- Writing pens

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Give each child a wooden box. Have them write their name on the bottom of it. Explain that they get to decorate their box. Set out the markers, sequins or pom poms, and glue for them to decorate their boxes with. If they need help with decorating, give them ideas and suggest designs of how they might decorate their prayer box. As the children are decorating their boxes, explain the gospel to them using the colors of the "Wordless Book". After the boxes have been finished and the children have wiped the glue off their hands, give each child a few prayer papers. Explain that they can write down prayer requests and/or praise reports to put inside their new box (help them with writing, if needed). Use this craft to teach the children what prayer is. You can even pray with them or for them. You can include in their boxes a small "Wordless Book" for them to take home.

