The Wordless Book Done With Balloons
By John Mayer

Needed: 260Q Balloons of the following colors; yellow, black, red, white and green
Balloon Pump (optional)
Scissors (optional)
A volunteer from the audience

Balloon Work:

I will first go through the steps to create all of the balloon sculptures you will need for this lesson and then the lesson will follow. You will twist the figures as you present the lesson. Don’t worry you’ll be able to follow along just fine. I do it this way so you can practice the figures without having to read everything else. All of the illustrations for making the balloon figures will be at the end of the document separated by name so that you can look at them and see the instructions at the same time if you print this out and leave the pages loose.

Inflate the yellow balloon leaving a one inch tip and tie it off. Squeeze the balloon to fill it completely. This will make it soft enough to do the remainder of twists that we need. Put the two ends of the balloon together and find the middle of the balloon. Put at least three full twists in the center of the balloon. This will be the mouth of a fish. Next, put the ends together again and come in about three inches and lock twist the ends together. You have now created a fish. Later in the lesson you will grab the fish in the middle and lock twist it in half.

Inflate the black balloon leaving a one-half inch tip. Make a three-quarter inch bubble at the knot end of the balloon and make a pinch twist with the nozzle. Make a loop around the volunteers head and twist the pinch twist into the balloon at the correct size. Make a three-quarter inch bubble at the tip end of the balloon and twist it into the loop directly across from the pinch twist. You have now made the basic helmet in black to
represent sin. When it comes time to do the white helmet, you will follow these same instructions.

Inflate the red balloon leaving a one inch tip. At the nozzle end of the balloon do a “Z” fold in the balloon and twist the “Z” in half. Straighten out the balloon to look like a cross. This one will take some practice to get the correct size of the “Z” fold so that the cross looks good. If you just put one twist in the “Z” while practicing, you can untwist it and try again to get the proportions correct. A word of caution, the more times you un-twist and re-twist the balloon, the better the chances of breaking it because it will get weaker where you are twisting. Don’t worry though; this is just practice so you will have it right for the lesson.

Inflate the green balloon leaving a one and one-half inch tip. Go in from the nozzle six inches and make a twist. Now fold over this bubble and wrap the nozzle around the twist a few times and then bring it through the loop twice to lock everything in place. You have now made a loop twist. From the base of the loop, come down another six inches and make a twist. Lock twist this bubble into the base of the first loop twist to create a second loop twist. Do this again one more time to make a third loop twist. Straighten the loop twists so they are somewhat perpendicular to the remainder of the balloon. You now have made a simple palm tree.

See and you thought this was going to be hard. You have now made all of the balloons that you will need for the lesson. If you want to save some of your colors for the lesson, practice using different ones. The colors are not as important during practice as they are in the message. Just remember to keep the colors straight for the lesson.

Now let’s begin the lesson.

**The Lesson:**

This yellow fish will represent heaven. The color yellow is used to remind us of the streets of gold. Heaven is a wonderful place where there is no pain, no sorrow, no sickness, and no tears.
There is no darkness there because it is illuminated by the presence of God. (Revelation 21:3-4)

God did not want to be alone in heaven. He created the Earth and all the living things in it including us. Adam and Eve were the first human beings on Earth and they were perfect. God did not want a bunch of mindless zombies worshiping him so he gave us the free will to choose whether we would obey Him or not. Eve and then Adam chose not to obey the one rule they had after being deceived by Satan, thus sin entered the world. Because of sin the gates of heaven were closed off to all of us. (Twist the fish in half to show the gates of heaven closed.)
This made God very sad. He loves us so much and wants us to be in heaven with him. He knew that the only way for us to be in heaven with Him was for us to live a perfect life. He also knew that we could not do that. The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23 that all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. There was only one thing left for Him to do. He sent His son, Jesus Christ, to the Earth. He sent Him not to condemn the world but to save it. Jesus lived a perfect life, free from sin. He then went willingly to the cross and died there, taking our sins with Him. Three days after His death, He conquered the grave and arose to life again. He was seen by over five hundred people after He returned to life. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, when God looks down upon His followers, He does not see our sin any longer. He sees the purity of His son, Jesus Christ.

Because of Christ being willing to sacrifice Himself on our behalf, His blood washes us clean of all our sins. We become white as snow. If we choose to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, God opens the gates of heaven to us so that we may enter in. (Pop the black helmet and replace it with the white helmet.)
This green balloon is twisted into a palm tree. This is to remind us that like the tree, we must grow in our Christian faith. Also like the tree, as we grow we become stronger and are more able to withstand the temptations thrown at us by Satan. There are several ways that we grow in our faith. Some of the ways are:

- Taking the time to read and study the Bible.
- Taking the time to talk with God in prayer regularly.
- Spend time with other Christians at church services and other get togethers.
- Worshiping God continually wherever you are, church, home, work or school.
- Taking the time to tell other people about the love of God and our hope of eternal salvation through Jesus Christ.
Fish:
Helmet (Black and White):

Figure 7

Figure 8

Figure 9

Figure 10

Figure 11

Figure 12

Cross:

Figure 13

Figure 14

Figure 15
Palm Tree:

Figure 16

Figure 17

Figure 18

Figure 19

Figure 20

Figure 21