



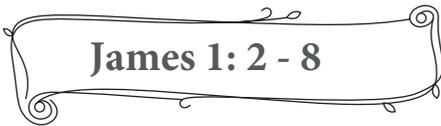
# WALKING *with* MARY: A Scripture Study with WINE

— An 8-week intimate journey with Mary, our Mother —

## Introduction

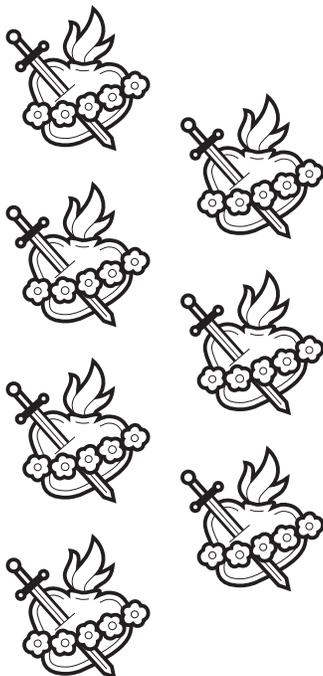
## An Introduction to Walking with Mary

by Allison Gingras



### Daily Lectio Divina

Walk with Mary by spending each day prayerfully praying **James 1: 2-8**. Be sure to capture your thoughts, prayers, and insights in your *Called by Name* WINE Journal. Check your heart each day as you pray by coloring in one of the Immaculate Hearts below.



Over the next eight weeks, as we embark on our journey of Walking with Mary, we will inevitably encounter "a-ha moments" from our time with Scripture, the reflections, or our sisters in Christ. These special gifts from the Holy Spirit will look different to each of us, even as we read the same Bible passages and reflections and listen to the same videos and webinars. What makes them unique will stem from our personal experiences, current circumstances, as well as how we dispose of ourselves to receive the grace God has prepared for us in participating in this study.

Giving wonderful gifts is kind of the Holy Spirit's jam! For example, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit we received in our Baptism and strengthened in our Confirmation include wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. As we prepare to embark on this journey, let's focus on the power of wisdom to help us ponder like Mary—not just reading or hearing the Word of God but discerning what it means specifically to God's will for us.

James 1:2-8 reminds us that there will be suffering and many crosses throughout our lives, but that this is an opportunity for joy when united to Christ's suffering! This idea, and quite frankly, many others taught by Jesus, can be dumbfounding as we try to reconcile it with modern thinking. We require true, godly wisdom in everything we do, particularly when we enter into the Scriptures. James not only teaches us where to find the wisdom we need, "ask God," but also encourages us to pray, in essence, to approach the throne of grace with confidence!

Mary did not doubt; her faith never wavered; she wisely sought clarification—confident she'd receive all she needed to understand (lacking nothing) to accomplish God's will. As you approach the Scriptures each day during this study, come believing Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel, "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (7:7). Do not let the waves and shifting sands of the world around you cause you to be unstable in your faith. Stand firm in the steadfastness that comes from the wisdom God is prepared to give each of us who ask—generously!

