



The Mother of Jesus is Wonderfully Real

The WINE *Wonderfully Real Storytime* pairs superbly with Catholic bookstores, schools, parishes, or any event that aims to teach children the beauty and truths of the Catholic Faith. Following the book, *The Mother of Jesus is Wonderfully Real*, this unique storytime is the perfect way to bring hearts of all ages closer to the heart of Mary and, thus, closer to her Son.

Hosting a Wonderfully Real Storytime in your bookstore is as easy as 1-2-3

1. **Order** copies of *The Mother of Jesus is Wonderfully Real* from CatholicVineyard.com.
2. **Download** the Wonderfully Real Storytime materials, and video from CatholicVineyard.com.
3. **Promote** your event, inviting parents and boys and girls of all ages.

Storytime Scheule

The Wonderfully Real Storytime can be scheduled for 60 to 90 minutes. The outline is created for you to pick and choose which aspects will work for you. All instructions, materials, videos, and downloads can be found at CatholicVineyard.com.

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer - 5 min
2. Introductory Video - 5 min
3. Storytime & Discussion - 25 min
4. Craft - 25 min
5. Snack - 15 min
6. Hail Mary Moment - 10 min
7. Closing Prayer & Sending - 5 min

90-Minutes
of Family
Fun & Faith

5 MIN – Welcome & Opening Prayer

The leader welcomes participants and reads the opening prayer below, or says one of their own.

Dear Jesus, we love You with all our hearts. Bless us as we read about what it means to believe in what we cannot see and help us to feel Your love through the love of Mary, our Mother. Mary, we ask you to intercede for us and help us always love others the way Jesus taught us. We pray with love in our hearts. AMEN.

5 MIN – Introductory Video

This is the story behind the story and sets the stage for the book! The leader shares the video of **Alyssa Bormes**, author of the foreword and aunt of little Isabel. It can be downloaded from CatholicVineyard.com or found on the WINE YouTube channel.

25 MIN – Reading and Discussion

The leader reads the book to the children, sharing with them the beautiful pictures.

The leader chooses a few (or all) of the questions below to ask the children.

1. What was your favorite part of the book?
2. Is there something in this world you believe in even though you have never touched or seen it?



3. Do you think Jesus loved His Mother Mary? How might have He shown His love for her?
4. Do you think Jesus wants to share His love for Mother Mary with us? How might we accept this gift? How can we love Mary like Jesus?
5. Why do you think when God allowed Mary to appear to some people here on earth, she wore the color blue? (Suggestion for the leader to share: "Maybe every time we see something blue, we can remember Jesus' love for His Mother and how He wants to share her with us.")
6. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have yet believed." How are the believers blessed? (Examples for the leader: We are happier, we always have someone to turn to even when we are most lonely, we have someone to talk with and to help us, etc.)



25 MIN – Craft - Mary Is Wonderfully Real to Me

This craft will help Mary 'pop' off the page! Giving Mary a 3-dimensional look will make her appear more "real" as we walk with her. The children will also draw a picture of themselves walking with Mary or bringing to her their favorite thing, such as flowers, a stuffed animal, a pet, or maybe their favorite food.

Materials you will need:

- Printed copies of images of Mary (Downloadable at CatholicVineyard.com)
- Q-tips
- White school glue
- White and blue tissue paper (Find 2-3 different hues of blue.)
- Small disposable plates
- Variety of color pencils, crayons, and/or markers



Preparation before the event:

- Cut tissue paper into 1" squares, keeping the colors separate from each other
- Create one example of finished craft to present

How to:

1. Give each child a plate with a variety of the different colors of the tissue squares and a Q-tip.
2. Put a glob of glue onto the plate away from the tissue.
3. Wrap the tissue around one end of the Q-tip.
4. Holding the tissue in place, dip the end of the Q-tip with the tissue into the glue. (It doesn't need to be much and be careful not to get glue on the Q-tip.)
5. Place the tissue on the part of Mary you wish to decorate and then remove the Q-tip (They won't have time to do all of Mary so suggest they focus on her skirt or her veil or maybe just the sash around her waist.)
6. Repeat these steps until Mary is decorated to their individual liking.
7. Ask the children to draw a picture of them walking with Mary and bringing her one of their most cherished items or something they love to bring to their own mother.
8. Color in any of the words at the top.



15 MIN – Snack

Have fun! Be creative! Blue cupcakes or sugar cookies are always fun... and messy!



10 MIN – Hail Mary Moment, Closing Prayer, & Sending

Learn the Hail Mary in a Wonderfully Real way

The leader asks the children if they know the prayer the “Hail Mary,” and then prays it with them. Each line in the “Hail Mary” tells us about Mary, her life, and her relationship with God.

Break down the Hail Mary for the children. (Adapted from “Jesus & I” by Aloysius Heeg, SJ)

Hail Mary, (Greeting from God.)

Full of Grace (God’s life in Mary’s soul, she was free from all sin.)

The Lord is with Thee (She is holy.)

Blessed art thou among women (She is pleasing to God.)

and Blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus (What Mary’s cousin, Elizabeth, said to Mary when she went to visit Elizabeth. Jesus means savior.)

Holy Mary, (She is without sin.)

Mother of God (She is the Mother of Jesus and since Jesus is God, she is the Mother of God too.)

Pray for us sinners, (Mary wants us to be holy too so we ask for her to pray for us.)

now (Mary doesn’t wait to help us! She loves us like she loves Jesus and prays for us right away.)

and at the hour of our death. (When the time comes, Mary wants us to have a happy death so that we will be with the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in heaven.)

AMEN.

5 MIN – Closing Prayer, & Sending

The leader thanks participants and reads the closing prayer below, or says one of their own.

Dear Jesus, may we always feel blessed by You, and like Isabel, may we always feel close to Mary, Your mother, as she leads us to Your most wonderful heart of love. May our hearts and minds always be open to accepting and believing in the graces and gifts you send us, even if we cannot see them. **AMEN.**

Sending: Invitation for Moms to Walk with Mary too

As **WINE: Women In the New Evangelization** is about being hearers and doers of the Word, the leader encourages the women to learn more about WINE and reads the message below.

Ladies,

WINE: Women In the New Evangelization offers many fabulous books for women at any point in their spiritual journey. *Walk in Her Sandals: Experiencing Christ Passion through the Eyes of Women* and *Gaze Upon Jesus: Experiencing Christ’s Childhood through the Eyes of Women* are two books that creatively blend Scripture, imaginative encounters, the feminine genius, virtues, and prayer in a way that allows women to relate to Jesus in the way in which they were created to, as women. WINE books and Bible studies are also designed for small groups with a study guide/journal accompanying them. For more information visit CatholiVineyard.com.



Having copies of WINE books available for purchase onsite at your store is a great idea!

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