How to Draw…

The Precious Blood

By Kelly Hudson

Instructions:

1. Draw or trace the design. You can begin with a light drawing pencil and then go over your lines with the colors. For the chalice, I used (J) METALLIC GOLD. For the Precious Blood, I used (F) TUSCAN RED. For the grapes, (B) VIOLET and for the grape leaves, (N) DARK GREEN with (I) DARK BROWN for the vine.
As you can see I have drawn in some curved rectangles on certain areas. This is to remind me to leave those areas blank - letting the white paper come through. This is called "highlighting." I will also have some white areas on the leaves but those can appear more random, so I will just wait until I begin adding the color, and stop short where I want the leaves to appear shiny.

2. Let us begin with the chalice. Using (J) METALLIC GOLD I started from the outer edges and began coloring towards the center, getting lighter as I went along. In this type of drawing where you have outlined your subject in color, it is important to make that color outline blend with the rest of it. So be sure that you are pressing hard enough that the outlines will blend in nicely. As I reached the center of the chalice I left a strip of paper white. This is to show where the light is hitting it. Most chalices are shiny; this was the affect I wanted to achieve. As I worked my way down the stem of the chalice, I used the same technique: Pressing hard enough to blend my outlines into the rest of the color, and getting lighter as I completed each small section of the stem. Don't forget to carry this technique through at the very top and inside portion of the chalice, as well as for the Precious Blood.

Next, I colored the grapes. Again, I began from the outline of each grape, blending it well in (B) VIOLET and lessening the pressure on the pencil as I moved toward the center of each grape. I like leaving a small area of white on the grapes, to make them look fresh and juicy. Later we will fill in with another shade of purple/blue to give this bunch of grapes a more natural appearance.

To complete step 2, I took my (N) DARK GREEN and made a thicker outline around each leaf. As you can see there is not as much blending on color needed for the leaves, since a portion of them will remain white, giving them a healthy sheen.

3. This is where we make the picture come to "life." We will add extra color and give it a richer appearance. This is the really fun part because you can get creative with your choices for color.
On the chalice, I used (K) DECO YELLOW and blended it in lightly with (J) METALLIC GOLD. I also used (G) CARMINE RED on a very small area in the Precious Blood.

For the grapes, I did several things. First I chose (A) INDIGO BLUE and filled in much of the white area between the grapes. This is to give an appearance of more grapes beneath the ones we have detailed. Next, I chose (C) IMPERIAL VIOLET and added right on to the (B) VIOLET, since many times grapes have a bluish-purple hue. I also used (D) DAHLIA PURPLE and (E) MULBERRY to blend into the end of each grape. It gives it a nice ripe appearance. Have fun experimenting with your colors! When you really look at a bunch of Concord Grapes, you can see that they were created in several shades of purple and blue, not just (B) VIOLET, like we began with in step 1.

On the leaves, I added (M) GRASS GREEN, blending it right into the (N) DARK GREEN. You can add other greens, too. As I said, have fun experimenting. Some varieties of grape leaves come in several shades of green! I finished the main part of the picture by coloring the tiny vine areas in (I) DARK BROWN.

To complete the project, I chose (H) BURNT OCHRE and added a nice area of shading to pull it all together. Again, choose any color you think would be appropriate. I chose a brown because I imagined my subject resting on a wooden table.