

LESSON PLAN

PATH FINDERS

CHAPTER 2

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Objective

- Understand the meaning of signs and symbols in the Syro-Malabar Liturgy.
- Identify unique elements in the Syro-Malabar Qurbana.
- Appreciate how signs help us encounter divine mysteries.
- Recognize and explain various liturgical gestures, colors, and objects.

Introduction

- Begin with a question: “What’s the most powerful sign or symbol you’ve seen in church?”

Brief discussion on how symbols help us connect with deeper meanings.

Explain that we use signs and symbols every day and the Church also uses them to help us understand invisible spiritual truths.

- Introduce the term: "Liturgical Signs and Symbols" — visible elements used in worship to express invisible spiritual truths.

Presentation of the Topic

Liturgical signs and symbols are actions, colors, and objects used during the Church’s worship to help us understand and enter into the mystery of God’s grace.

Give examples they have likely seen at Mass: water, candles, incense, gestures like the Sign of the Cross.

Biblical Links

- Water: John 3:5
 - Oil: James 5:14
 - Light: John 8:12
 - Bread & Wine: Luke 22:19-20
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Symbol	Meaning / Use in Qurbana
Sanctuary (Madbaha)	Holy of Holies—represents Heaven
Heaven Veil (Curtain)	Mystery of divine presence; opened during the Qurbana
Lighted Lamps / Candles	Light of Christ, divine presence
Incense Reverence	sanctification, prayers rising to heaven
Holy Leaven (Malka)	A symbol of apostolic continuity used in preparing the Eucharist
Gestures (e.g., standing, bowing, kissing altar)	Reverence, participation in Christ's sacrifice
Processions	Sign of pilgrimage, movement toward God
Bread & Wine	Body and Blood of Christ

Scripture Connections:

- Exodus 40:34–38 – Glory of God in the Tabernacle
- Isaiah 6:1–4 – Heavenly worship with incense
- Luke 22:19–20 – Institution of the Eucharist
- Hebrews 9:1–5 – Description of the Holy of Holies (parallels the Madbaha)

Habit Formation

- Give due respect to the church and sacred articles used in the church

Activity

- Students match the Syro-Malabar symbol to its meaning and where it's seen in Qurbana.
- Use pictures of a Syro-Malabar sanctuary and ask students to identify and label items (veil, altar, lamp, thronos, etc.).
- Small Group Sharing:-“Which symbol or part of the Qurbana helps you feel God's presence most deeply? Why?”

Bible Verse

Read and Learn

Revelation 4:11

Conclusion

Recap Key Points:

- “The Syro-Malabar Qurbana is rich in symbols that help us enter the mystery of Jesus' sacrifice.”
- “Every gesture and item has deep meaning—our worship is full of reverence and awe.”

Reflective Prompt:“Next time you attend Qurbana, choose one symbol to watch closely— what is God saying to you through it?”

Closing Prayer :“Lord, help us to understand and love the Holy Qurbana. May the signs and symbols bring us closer to you.