



Lesson Plan

Chapter 3

Path Finders

Std 9 & 10

Signs and Symbols in the Holy Qurbana

Objective

- Define the terms signs and symbols in a liturgical context.
- Identify key signs and symbols used in the Syro-Malabar Holy Qurbana.
- Explain the spiritual significance of each element.
- Understand how these signs help deepen participation in the Holy Qurbana.

Introduction

- Show images or short clips from the Syro-Malabar Qurbana
e.g., sanctuary veil, procession, incensing, altar, hand gesture for Epiclesis, etc. Ask:
 - “What stands out in these pictures or videos?”
 - “Have you noticed these during Qurbana before?”
 - “Why do you think we use these gestures or objects?”

Presentation of the Topic

Signs – Visible actions or items that point to a deeper spiritual reality.

Symbols – Richer than signs; they reveal mysteries beyond words and connect us to divine truths.

Major Signs and Symbols in the Syro-Malabar Qurbana:

Use a chart or board to list them with images

1. Sanctuary and Madbaha (Altar): Symbol of Heaven and the presence of God.
2. Altar = Christ; Madbaha is where the heavenly and earthly meet.
3. Veil (Curtain): Signifies the mystery and sacredness of God. Its opening and closing reflects divine revelation and human readiness.
4. Cross : Central symbol; source of salvation and victory. Always placed on the altar, venerated during the Qurbana.
5. Incense: Symbol of prayer rising to heaven. Also represents purification and divine presence.
6. Processions (Entrance, Gospel, Offertory): Symbol of the Church's journey towards the Heavenly Kingdom.
7. Bread and Wine : Becomes the Body and Blood of Christ. Core mystery of Qurbana – the Holy Sacrifice.
8. Lighted Lamps: Sign of divine presence; Christ is the Light of the World. Placed on or near the altar.
9. Kiss of Peace: Symbol of reconciliation, unity in the Body of Christ.
10. Liturgical Gestures: Bowing, signing the cross, raising hands in epiclesis—each has deep meaning.
11. Vestments of the Celebrant: Symbol of putting on Christ and the priesthood of Christ.

Habit Formation

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

Activity

- **Symbol Match-Up**

Give students cards: one set with symbols, another with meanings. Have them match and present.

Divide into small groups. Assign one symbol to each and ask them to explain its meaning and role.

- **Symbol Detectives Reflection**

Ask students to recall the last Qurbana they attended.

*Which symbols did they notice?

*Did anything have new meaning today?

Bible Verse

Read and Learn

Revelation 8:4

Conclusion

The Holy Qurbana is not just words—it is full of signs that help us see, hear, smell, and feel the presence of God.”

End with a prayer:

“Lord Jesus, help us to recognize Your presence in the sacred signs of the Holy Qurbana, and to worship You with our whole hearts. Amen.”