

A Biblical and Symbolic Look at the Sacraments of Christian Initiation

Part 1

Each of the Sacraments incorporates concrete objects and actions as symbols. Begin to examine some of these symbols by answering the following questions:

1. Name at least four uses for, or characteristics of, water. How might these symbolically relate to the Sacrament of Baptism?

2. Name at least three uses for, or characteristics of, oil. How might these symbolically relate to the Sacrament of Confirmation?

3. Name three uses for, or characteristics of, bread and wine. How might these symbolically relate to the Sacrament of the Eucharist?



Part 2

Read each Scripture passage below carefully. Look for an object or action that is (or became) a symbol. Then explain the symbol's meaning in the celebration of the Sacrament. Use the sample as a model.

Baptism		
Scripture Passage	Symbolic Object or Action in Scripture	Explanation of the Symbol as It Relates to Baptism
<p>Genesis 6:11–22 God tells Noah to build an ark to save himself, his offspring, and animals from a flood.</p>	<p>The Flood is a water event of destruction and death. Symbolically, the Flood can indicate how sin leads to death.</p>	<p>Baptism is death to an old life of sin and rebirth to a new life in Christ, using water.</p>
<p>Exodus 14:21–25</p>		
<p>Joshua 3:14–17</p>		
<p>John 4:4–15</p>		



Confirmation		
Scripture Passage	Symbolic Object or Action in Scripture	Explanation of the Symbol as It Relates to Confirmation
1 Samuel 16:11–13		
Isaiah 61:1–2		
John 3:3–8		
Acts 2:1–13		



Eucharist		
Scripture Passage	Symbolic Object or Action in Scripture	Explanation of the Symbol as It Relates to the Eucharist
Exodus 12:14–20		
Matthew 14:13–21		
Luke 22:14–20		
John 6:30–35		
1 Corinthians 11:23–26		

