
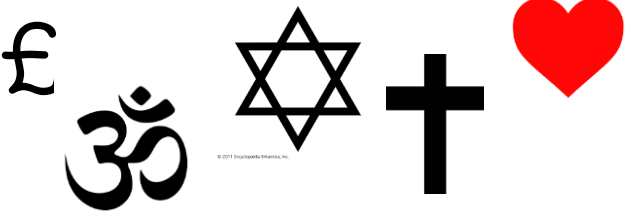


# Signs and symbols

## What is the difference between a sign and a symbol?

Signs and symbols are pictures that represent something and have a meaning.

Signs	Symbols
Signs always have a clear meaning often giving information or an instruction.	Symbols also represent something but you need some knowledge to understand what the symbol represents.
	

Here are three Christian **symbols** which can be understood by reading the story of Noah in the book of Genesis in the Bible.



The **rainbow** represents a reminder of God's promise.



The **olive branch** represents peace.



The **dove** represents peace.

### Idioms and religious metaphors

These are phrases that have a non-literal or figurative meaning. They are often used in religious scripture to suggest a greater meaning about that religion's teachings.

Metaphors are used in the bible:

God is my rock (Psalm 18),

Jesus is the light of the world (John 8),

the Lord is my shepherd (Psalm 23).

Foods can be used as symbols.

Here is a picture of a Seder Plate which is used during the Jewish holiday of Passover. It holds six different foods, each with a special religious significance to the retelling of the Passover story (the exodus from Egypt)



**Lamb shank bone** is a reminder of the sacrifices the Jews had to make.

**Apple and nut mix charoset** represents the mortar used to hold the buildings together.

**Lettuce** represents new life.

**Parsley** dipped in salt water to remember the tears of the slaves.

**Hard boiled egg** is a sign of Spring

**Horseradish** is a reminder of the bitterness of slavery.