

# LESSON 6

ENDOWMENT

# ONE THING TO REMEMBER Symbolism

## TODAY'S CHALLENGE:

**Will you seek to understand the deep symbolism in the temple and let it sink into your heart?**

“Look to the temple of the Lord as the great symbol of your membership.”

Howard W. Hunter, October 1994



The new Salt Lake Temple Square rendering



## Homework

### Do the study guide

Answer the questions on the next page.

### Study Elder Russell M. Nelson

“Personal Preparation for Temple Blessings,” April 2001 General Conference

### Study President Howard W. Hunter

“Exceeding Great and Precious Promises” October 1994

### Buy this booklet

“Understanding the Sacred Symbolism of Temple Clothing” by Kim Gibbs. Paperback \$2.99 on Amazon or \$2.84 Kindle.



## QUOTE OF THE DAY



“The temple is the house of the Lord. The basis for every temple ordinance and covenant—the heart of the plan of salvation—is the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Every activity, every lesson, all we do in the Church, point to the Lord and His holy house. Our efforts to proclaim the gospel, perfect the

Saints, and redeem the dead all lead to the temple. Each holy temple stands as a symbol of our membership in the Church, as a sign of our faith in life after death, and as a sacred step toward eternal glory for us and our families” (Russell M. Nelson, “Personal Preparation for Temple Blessings,” April 2001 General Conference).



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Write your answers in your study journal

# Study Guide: Symbolism

## 1. How do the symbols in the temple testify of Christ?

“Every divine ordinance or performance ordained of God, every sacrifice, symbolism, and similitude; all that God ever gave to his people—all was ordained and established in such a way as to testify of his Son and center the faith of believing people in him and in the redemption he was foreordained to make” (Bruce R. McConkie, *The Promised Messiah: The First Coming of Christ* [1978], 28).

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## 2. How does temple worship offer the opportunity to learn in ways you are not used to?

“Each temple is a house of learning. There we are taught in the Master’s way. His way differs from modes of others. His way is ancient and rich with symbolism. We can learn much by pondering the reality for which each symbol stands” (Russell M. Nelson “Personal Preparation for Temple Blessings,” *Ensign*, May 2001).

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## 3. Why are symbols one of God’s favorite ways of teaching?

“God teaches with symbols; it is his favorite method of teaching” (Orson F. Whitney, “Latter-day Stain Ideals and Institutions,” *Improvement Era*, August 1927).

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## 4. How can symbols be more powerful than words?

“Symbols are the universal tongue. Symbols bring color and strength to language, while deepening and enriching our understandings. Symbols enable us to give conceptual form to ideas and emotions that may otherwise defy the power of words.

“They take us beyond words and grant us eloquence in the expression of feelings. Symbolic language conceals certain doctrinal truths from the wicked and thereby protects sacred things from possible ridicule. At the same time, symbols reveal truth to the spiritually alert” (Joseph Fielding McConkie and Donald W. Parry, *Guide to Scriptural Symbols*, 1990, 1).

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## 5. Why is every covenant you make, in and out of the temple, written in the language of symbolism?

“Symbols are the language in which all gospel covenants and all ordinances of salvation have been revealed. From the time we are immersed in the waters of baptism to the time we kneel at the altar of the temple with the companion of our choice in the ordinance of eternal marriage, every covenant we make will be written in the language of symbolism.” (Joseph Fielding McConkie and Donald W. Parry, *Guide to Scriptural Symbols*, 1990, 1).

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## 6. Why is the teaching in the temple done in a symbolic fashion?

“Before going to the temple for the first time, or even after many times, it may help you to realize that the teaching in the temples is done in symbolic fashion” (Boyd K. Packer, “The Holy Temple,” *Ensign*, Oct. 2010, 31).

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## 7. How is the temple the great symbol of your membership?

“In that spirit I invite the Latter-day Saints to look to the temple of the Lord as the great symbol of your membership. It is the deepest desire of my heart to have every member of the Church worthy to enter the temple” (Howard W. Hunter, October 1994).

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## 8. List some symbols of the temple. What are the “mighty realities for which the symbols stand”?

“We live in a world of symbols. No man or woman can come out of the temple endowed as he should be, unless he has seen, beyond the symbol, the mighty realities for which the symbols stand” (John A. Widtsoe, “Temple Worship,” *Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine*, Apr. 1921, p. 62).

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## 9. What has been revealed to you about temple symbols?

“If you may have been somewhat confused, unclear, or concerned about your temple experience, I hope you will return again and again. When you return, come with an open, seeking, contrite heart, and allow the Spirit to teach you by revelation what the symbols can mean to you and the eternal realities which they represent” (David B. Haight, April 1992).

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## 10. What do these scriptures reveal to you about symbolism and how they all bear record of Jesus Christ?

Bible Dictionary, Symbolism: The scriptures are rich in symbolism and figurative expression. Ceremonies and ordinances are symbolic in their performance, and all bear record of Jesus Christ (Moses 6:63).

Such symbolism is seen in sacrifice (Heb. 9:11–15; Moses 5:7–8); in the sacrament (JST Mark 14:20–24; Luke 22:13–20); and in baptism (Romans 6:1–6; D&C 128:12–13). Biblical names especially are symbolic (see Christ, names of and Names of persons).

The tabernacle ceremony was symbolic of eternal things (Heb. 8–10), as was the entire law of Moses, containing types and shadows of Christ (Mosiah 13:29–32; Alma 25:15). For other symbolic items see Exodus 20:8–11; Matthew 5:13–16; Jacob 4:5; Alma 37:38–45.

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