



Religion	Christian
Denomination	Church of England
Question answered:	What symbols are important to you? (KS1 Q 1)
Key Concepts, questions, and outcomes:	Symbols, communication, God, beliefs, sacred, worship Why do symbols and stories play important roles in religions? Does everyone believe the same things about God? Recognise and give simple accounts of the core beliefs.
Key teaching points:	Symbols communicate important messages about beliefs; Christianity has several symbols: Cross, Bible, Fish are just a few.
Prior knowledge:	Some knowledge of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus

Core Vocabulary:			
<b>Cross</b>	Most common symbol of Christianity representing the way Jesus died	<b>Victory</b>	In rising from the dead Jesus has won the battle over death and Christians can have eternal life too
<b>Resurrection</b>	Most Christians believe Jesus came back to life after his crucifixion	<b>Heaven</b>	A way of describing the place where Christians believe eternal life is lived.
<b>Jesus</b>	Most Christians believe that he is Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God	<b>Fish</b>	The symbol of the fish was used because the Greek word uses the first letters of the Greek for Jesus Christ son of God
<b>Bible</b>	The Christian holy book	<b>Crucifix</b>	A cross with the figure of Jesus

Summary of answers:
Both interviewees mention the cross, as it is a reminder of the Christian belief that Jesus died on a cross. Christians believe that his death makes a way for them to have the wrong things they do forgiven and to live a life of peace with God. The first person refers to the resurrection - the belief that Jesus rose from the dead and the second person, by referring to the empty cross reinforces the view that it is this that is most important. While the Bible is not really a symbol, it represents the full teaching that most Christians believe and so becomes a way of talking about everything that God has said and done. The second person refers to the symbol of the fish – the secret symbol used by early Christians.

Next Steps:
Visit a church virtually or in person and look for the symbols mentioned and any other symbols that can be seen. Read the story behind the cross; look at a range of pictures of crosses; decorate a cross with a range of other Christian symbols. Find out more about the symbols of the fish and learn the Greek letters. Pupils could also find out about other Greek letters used by Christians – Alpha and Omega (beginning and end) and Chi Ro (the first letters of the word Christ). Find out why Greek is used.

