



SUNDAY LESSONS
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This Month's Topic:
**Ordinances and
Covenants**

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

*When we study and ponder the symbols in gospel ordinances,
our thoughts center on Jesus Christ.*

By David A. Edwards

Church Magazines

Because symbols are all around us, we often don't think about them very much. But paying closer attention to gospel symbols can be a key to greater understanding.

The scriptures use words like *type*, *shadow*, *emblem*, *token*, *sign*, *parable*, *remembrance*, *witness*, or *testimony* to describe something that is meant to point our thoughts toward something else (see Moses 6:63). For instance, when Jesus introduced the sacrament at the Last Supper, He gave His

disciples the broken bread they were to eat and said, "This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). Now, obviously the bread was not literally His body; as He said, it is meant to *remind* us of His body—and *much more*. That's what makes symbols so powerful—they communicate without language and trigger a number of related thoughts all at once, adding depth and meaning.

Of course, ordinances are not

merely symbolic gestures; they carry real power to bless us through the authority of the priesthood. But they also contain symbols that teach us about the Savior and about our covenants. Even the act of submitting to and receiving a priesthood ordinance is an outward sign of a person's faith and humility. Here are many of the symbols connected with the ordinances of baptism, confirmation, and the sacrament, as well as some of the ideas associated with them.