



## Symbols Robert Morris

**Focus** God uses symbols throughout the Bible to give us greater revelation and understanding of His ways. We must value God’s Word and make time for reading it every day.

**Fun** What is your favorite summer memory as a kid, and why is this memory special?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Mark 4:2 & Psalm 105:40

### 1. The Bible is full of spiritual symbols.

We are spirits having a human experience. The Bible is full of spiritual symbols. This is important because the Bible is a spiritual book, written by a spiritual being, given to spiritual beings. The Bible interprets itself; we don’t interpret the Bible. Read the Bible in context of the whole Bible (Old and New Testament).

### 2. Sheep have an enemy.

God calls the people of God sheep. Pastors and spiritual leaders are shepherds. We need to understand that God’s people have an enemy. When God talks about the beasts of the field, He is talking about the enemy and demonic spirits. God doesn’t want us to be naïve to the schemes of the enemy. He wants to give us wisdom through the Bible so that we are empowered to resist our enemies.

### 3. God has a plan.

When God brings judgment on the worldly church, He will leave a remnant of His people, which is represented as “the stump” in Daniel 4:15. In John 15:5, Jesus says that He is the vine and we are the branches. We must stay connected to the vine of Christ through studying and knowing God’s Word. God’s people are the safest when they are meditating on God’s Word. When

they do this, they are like trees planted by streams of living water. Jesus is the living water.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Make prayer a priority in your small group and pray regularly for everyone on your group roster. Prayer brings comfort and community.

## **Discuss**

1. Have you ever felt like the Bible was confusing or overwhelming to understand? Why?
2. Pastor Robert shared that many of today's intellectuals believe the Bible isn't relevant. Do you agree or disagree with this notion?
3. What has been your experience with the Bible? And is the Bible significant in your life? Share.
4. Read Mark 4:2–9. What do the symbols in this passage represent? Now read Mark 4:13–15. What surprises you about this parable?
5. Do you believe God speaks to us personally through the Bible? Why or why not? What does this look like for you personally?
6. Can you share a time or experience when God spoke to you and directed you through the Bible?
7. Take time to pray and commit to developing a regular habit of studying God's Word. Set a time each day for study and listening to what God wants to say to you through His Word.

## **Take Home**

As we conclude, remember the following:

- God uses symbols to reveal Himself to His people.
- God wants us to know we have an enemy.
- God wants us to know that He has a plan for our redemption.

**Prayer** Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the most sacrificial offering of all—Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for giving us the gift of the Bible. Thank You for blessing us when we come to You in prayer! Help us to always come to You first and to study Your Word for what You are saying. Thank You for the gift of Your Word. Help us to understand it and to learn Your ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** As a new leader, now is the time to begin inviting people to your group. Many people begin attending church for the first time near the beginning of the school year. People are also making decisions for their fall schedules, so now is the key time to begin inviting others to join your group.