



Seven Is Sufficient

Did you ever send a secret code? Perhaps you remember a movie or TV show where secret agents communicated by using special code words. Sometimes people use special code words when they want the members of their own group and no one else to know what they are saying. Can you think of any groups that use special code words?

A code word can also be a symbol. By now you should know what a symbol is. Who will explain this word?

During World War II, American soldiers would write "Kilroy was here!" on buildings and other places they passed. This became a symbol because Kilroy was a name used to represent any American soldier. It also became a code word with two different meanings. It could have meant that someone named Kilroy was writing on the walls, but the Americans knew that it really meant that other Americans had been there earlier, so they felt safer. They could decipher the code.

Christians have always had their special code words. Why would Christians want and maybe even need code words? The hymn, "Seven Is Sufficient," is a song in code. Every stanza contains words that have special meanings besides what the words usually mean. If something is sufficient it is all that you need. "Seven" is a code word. To decipher it, you need to know the story about how Jesus fed over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Do you see now how seven is sufficient?

Below is some information that should help you crack the code for this hymn:

1. Jesus is sometimes called the _____ of Life.
2. The fish symbol () is a famous Christian sign which stands for "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior"
3. In the Bible, the number seven symbolizes fullness.

Now see if you can find the code words and decipher their special meaning for Christians.

The tune to *Seven Is Sufficient* was written especially for young people. It is a pentatonic tune, which means that after you know it you should be able to play it on the piano using only black keys. (Start on C♯, the lower one in a group of two black keys.)

Hymn Study by Robert P. Glick