



# Lesson 17: Edward Partridge Is Called as the First Bishop

# Purpose

To help the children understand the duties of a bishop and have the desire to support their bishop and other Church leaders.

# Our Bishop

1. Busy as a man can be,  
He's our bishop.  
He finds time to talk to me;  
He's our bishop.  
Always kindly words he'll say  
To the children ev'ry day.  
Let us help him ev'ry way;  
He's our bishop.

2. **Cheerful as he serves the Lord,  
He's our bishop.  
He's the father of our ward;  
He's our bishop.  
He helps us to do the right  
In our Heav'nly Father's sight.  
We love him with all our might;  
He's our bishop.**

**OUR OPENING PRAYER WILL BE GIVEN  
BY**



**(Enter Name Here)**

# Attention Activity



- Written on this square is the name of a person who helps you.
- Let's play "questions".
- You can ask one question at a time and they have to be "yes" or "no" answers only.

# Attention Activity



- Some questions you might ask are:
- “Is this person a member of the Church?”
- Is this person a woman?
- Who wants to be first?

# Attention Activity

**Bishop Name Here**

- The name on this square is the name of:

# Attention Activity

**Bishop Name Here**

- What are some ways our bishop helps us live the gospel?
- Tell the children that this lesson will help them understand what a bishop does to help us live the gospel and how we can support the bishop and other Church leaders in their callings.

# Attention Activity

**Bishop Name Here**

- In today's lesson, we are going to discuss what a bishop does to help us live the gospel and how we can support the bishop and other Church leaders in their callings.



# Lesson 17: Edward Partridge Is Called as the First Bishop

- In early 1831, almost a year after the Church was organized, many people were joining the Church and gathering in Ohio, as the Lord had commanded.
- As the Church grew, Joseph Smith needed additional leaders to help with the work of the Church.



- **The Church was facing many financial (money-related) challenges.**
- **Many of the Saints who gathered to Kirtland were poor.**

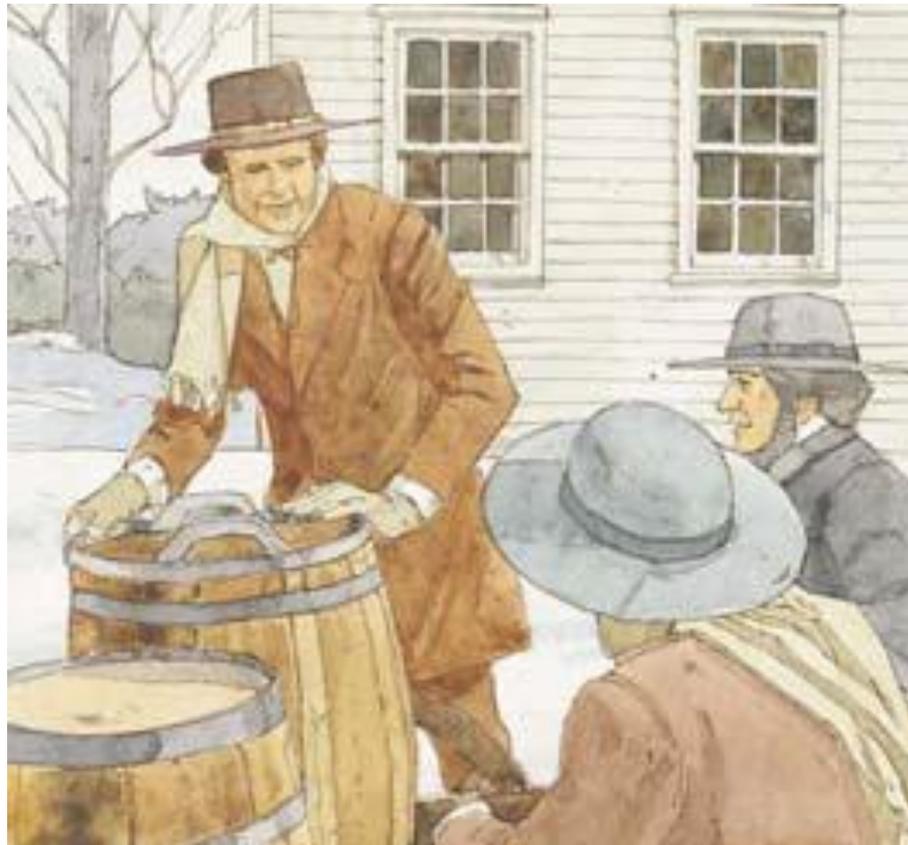
- They had no land or money and little food, clothing, or other things that were necessary for them to live.
- The Church also needed money to build a temple and to publish written materials such as revelations and missionary pamphlets.



- **The Prophet himself did not have a home or a way to provide for his family, and other Church leaders who were serving in the Church full-time also needed help in supporting their families.**

- [Go to the Video](#)
- [Go to slides](#)
- [Continue](#)

- Some people in New York were mean to the Saints and wanted them to leave.
- Jesus told Joseph Smith to leave New York and go to Kirtland, Ohio.



- Joseph and Emma, Sidney Rigdon, and Edward Partridge went to Kirtland.



- **Joseph and Emma lived with a member of the Church named Newel K. Whitney.**



- There were about 1,000 members of the Church in Kirtland.
- They were trying to obey God, but they did not understand all of the gospel.



- Joseph prayed and received a revelation.
- Jesus told him that the Saints in Kirtland needed a bishop.
- The bishop should use his time to teach and help the Saints.
- The first bishop in the Church was to be Edward Partridge.

- As more people joined the Church, more bishops were needed.



- **Newel K. Whitney was called to be the second bishop of the Church.**

- Jesus told Joseph that the bishop should take care of a storehouse.
- The Saints should give food, clothing, and other offerings to the bishop to place in the storehouse.



- Then the bishop would use these things to help any Saints who were poor or needy.

- Jesus also said that the bishop should receive the money that the Saints give to the Church.

● **The bishop would use this money to pay the bills of the Church and to help the poor.**





- The bishop should love the Saints and try to help them.
- He should meet with the men who have the priesthood and talk about what they are doing to help the Saints.

- A bishop leads the Saints in each ward.
- A branch president is like a bishop.
- A branch president leads the Saints in each branch.





- Today there are thousands of bishops in the Church.



- In 1838 the Lord commanded the members of the Church to pay tithing

● Tithing is used by the Church to help pay for things such as missionary work, construction and maintenance of temples and meetinghouses, and publication of lesson materials. ([D&C 119:1–4](#)).



- Bishops are assigned to receive the tithing of the Church members.

- **When Church members began to gather in Missouri at the end of 1831, Bishop Partridge was called by the Prophet to move to Missouri and be the bishop there.**
- **Newel K. Whitney was called to be the bishop for the Saints who remained in Ohio.**



- As the Church continued to grow, other bishops were called to lead the members.

- **When Bishop Whitney was called, Bishop Partridge became known as the First, or Presiding, Bishop of the Church.**
- **He had responsibility over all the other bishops.**



Bishop Gary E. Stevenson,  
Presiding Bishop of The Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter-day Saints

- **Today there is still one Presiding Bishop, but there are many bishops looking after the members of the Church all over the world.**



- Another duty given to Bishop Partridge was to purchase and distribute land for individual homes and Church buildings (D&C 42:35).
- He was also to be a judge in Israel (D&C 58:17–18).



- This meant that if a member of the Church did not keep all the commandments, the bishop decided whether he or she could still belong to the Church.
- This was an important way to help the members keep all the promises they had made to Heavenly Father.

- Edward Partridge and his family made many sacrifices so that he could serve as bishop.
- When Bishop Partridge moved to Missouri, he had to leave his family in Ohio.



*Edward Partridge*

- Some of his children were sick with measles, and one daughter had an illness so severe that Bishop Partridge did not know if he would ever see her alive again.

- When all the children had recovered, Bishop Partridge's wife and five children left Kirtland to join him in Missouri.
- While they were traveling on a boat on the Missouri River, the water was so full of ice that they were forced to the shore before they reached Missouri.



- A local family gave them shelter in a windowless room of a two-room log cabin.

- When Bishop Partridge's family finally arrived in Independence, Missouri, they all lived in a rented one-room log house.



- They shared this room with a widow and her four children until Bishop Partridge finished building a two-room house near the place where the temple would be built.

When Bishop Partridge lived in Missouri, a mob tarred and feathered him because they did not want him or other Church members to live there anymore.

His good character and the good example he set for others is shown in the following account:



“I was taken from my house by the mob, ... I was stripped of my hat, coat and vest and daubed with tar from head to foot, and then had a quantity of feathers put upon me; and all this because I would not agree to leave the county, and my home where I had lived two years.



- “Before tarring and feathering me I was permitted to speak.
- I told them that the Saints had suffered persecution in all ages of the world;
- that I had done nothing which ought to offend anyone;



*Edward Partridge*

- **“Before tarring and feathering me I was permitted to speak.**

- I told them that the Saints had suffered persecution in all ages of the world; that I had done nothing which ought to offend anyone; that if they abused me, they would abuse an innocent person; that I was willing to suffer for the sake of Christ; but, to leave the country, I was not then willing to consent to it. ...



*Edward Partridge*

- “I bore my abuse with so much resignation and meekness, that it appeared to astound the multitude, who permitted me to retire in silence ... ; and as to myself, I was so filled with the Spirit and love of God, that I had no hatred towards my persecutors or anyone else” (*History of the Church*, 1:390–91).
- Bishop Edward Partridge was a devoted servant of the Lord and a righteous example to the Church members and to the bishops who followed after him.



Discussion Time

- Who chose Edward Partridge to be a bishop? ([D&C 41:9.](#))



● How are bishops chosen today?

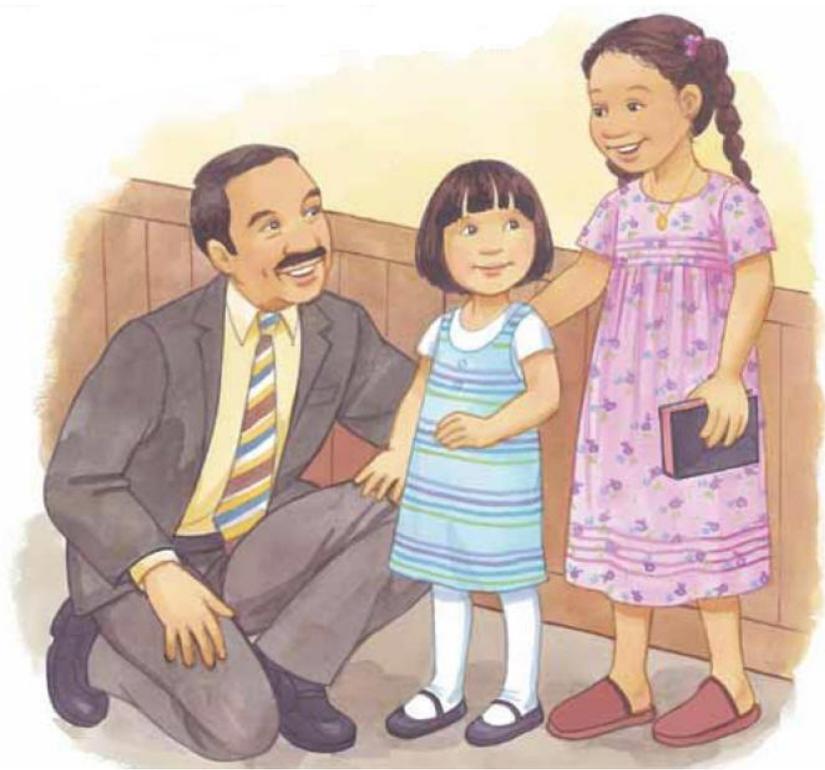
- Who chose Edward Partridge to be a bishop? ([D&C 41:9.](#))



## ● How are bishops chosen today?

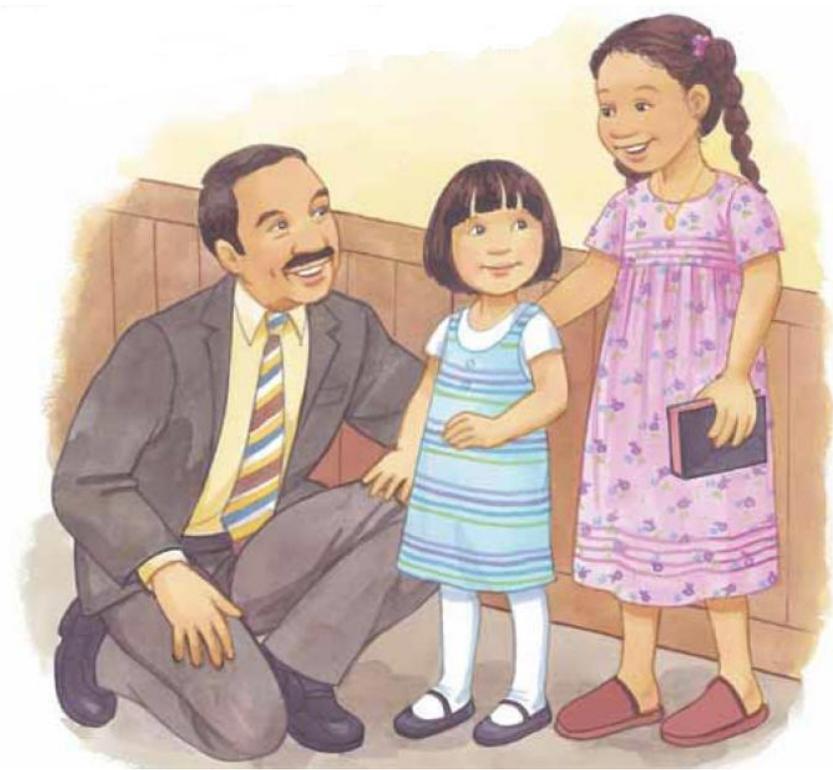
- The Lord reveals to stake presidents whom to call as bishops

- What kind of a man was Edward Partridge? ([D&C 41:11](#))
- Someone “in whom there is no guile” is someone who is honest, righteous, and unselfish.?



- How did Joseph Smith describe Edward Partridge? (See section heading to [D&C 36.](#))

- A “pattern of piety” means that Bishop Partridge set a good example as someone who honored God and kept the commandments.



- Why do you think the Lord chose an honest and obedient man to serve as bishop?



- What characteristics do you admire in our bishop?
- How is the bishop a good example for you?
- How can you be a good example to others?

- What were some of the duties Bishop Partridge was given? ([D&C 42:30–31, 34–35; 58:14, 17–18.](#))
- What duties does our bishop have?.



● How does our bishop help the poor?



# ● How does our bishop help the poor?

- The bishop can use money the Church members give as fast offerings to help those who are poor obtain food, clothing, shelter, and medical care.
- He can also send them to the bishops' storehouse to get food, bedding, and other items.





- What important spiritual gift is a bishop given? ([D&C 46:27–29](#))



## ● What important spiritual gift is a bishop given? ([D&C 46:27–29](#))

- With the gift of discernment the bishop is given inspiration to know important things about his ward members, such as who might be in need of spiritual help or whom to call to a position.



- How can you support your bishop in the things he does?

● How can your parents and other ward members support him?





- How does the bishop help you and your family?
- What other Church leaders help you?

● How do they help you?

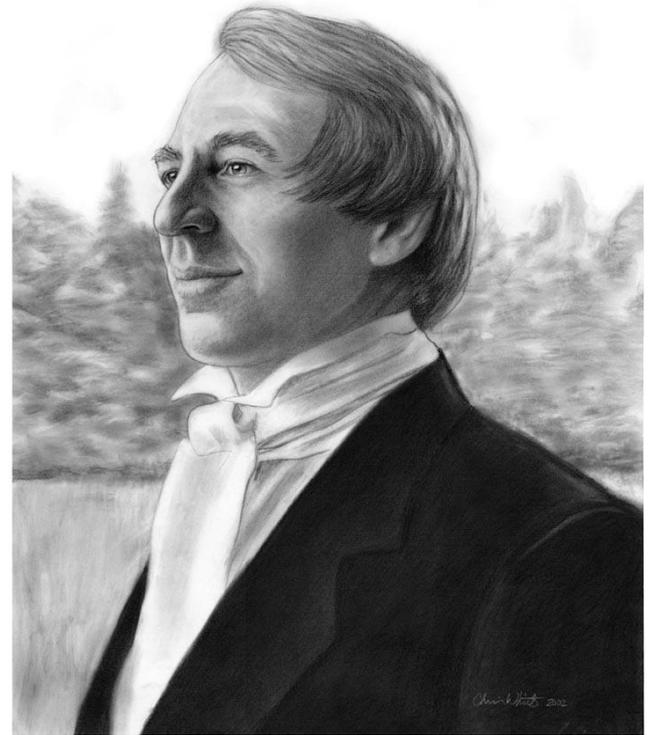


# Enrichment Activities

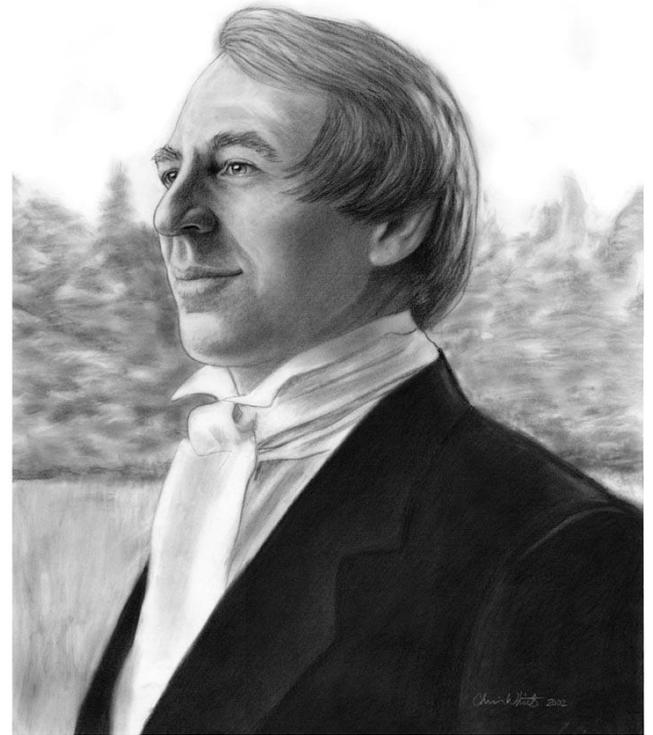
- Bishops are called by God.
- Listen to the following story about Bishop Newel K. Whitney, The second bishop of the Church.



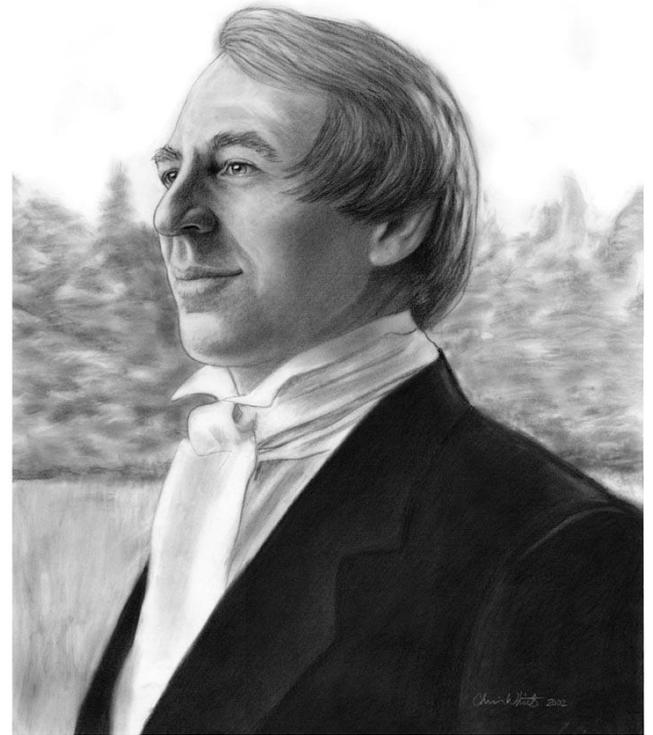
- When Newel K. Whitney was called to be a bishop, he did not feel that he would be able to be a good bishop.
- He was friends with the Prophet Joseph Smith and said to him, “I cannot see a bishop in myself, brother Joseph; but if you say it’s the Lord’s will, I’ll try.”
- “You need not take my word alone,” answered Joseph. “Go and ask Father for yourself.”



- Newel Whitney decided to do as the Prophet had advised.
- Before he went to bed, he prayed to know if he should accept the call as bishop.
- His humble prayer was answered.
- He heard a voice from heaven say, “Thy strength is in me.”



- These simple words told Brother Whitney what he wanted to know.
- He went to the Prophet and told him that he was willing to accept the calling of bishop.
- This experience and others helped Newel Whitney know that the Lord is in charge of the Church.



We are going to play a game.

Imagine you are the Bishop.

One at a time, We are going to show you something a Bishop does.

You need to act it out (no talking) and see if you can get the rest of the class to guess what it is he does.

Supervise ward leaders.

Greet you and shake your hand at church

Visit Primary and encourage you to obey  
Heavenly Father.

Accept your tithing and send it to Church headquarters.

Call a ward member to be a Primary teacher.

Interview a 12-year-old boy so that he can be ordained a deacon.

Interview a 12-year-old girl when she enters  
Young Women..

Interview an 8-year-old child so that he or she can be baptized.

Help a needy family obtain food and clothes through the bishops' storehouse.

Pray for the people in his ward.

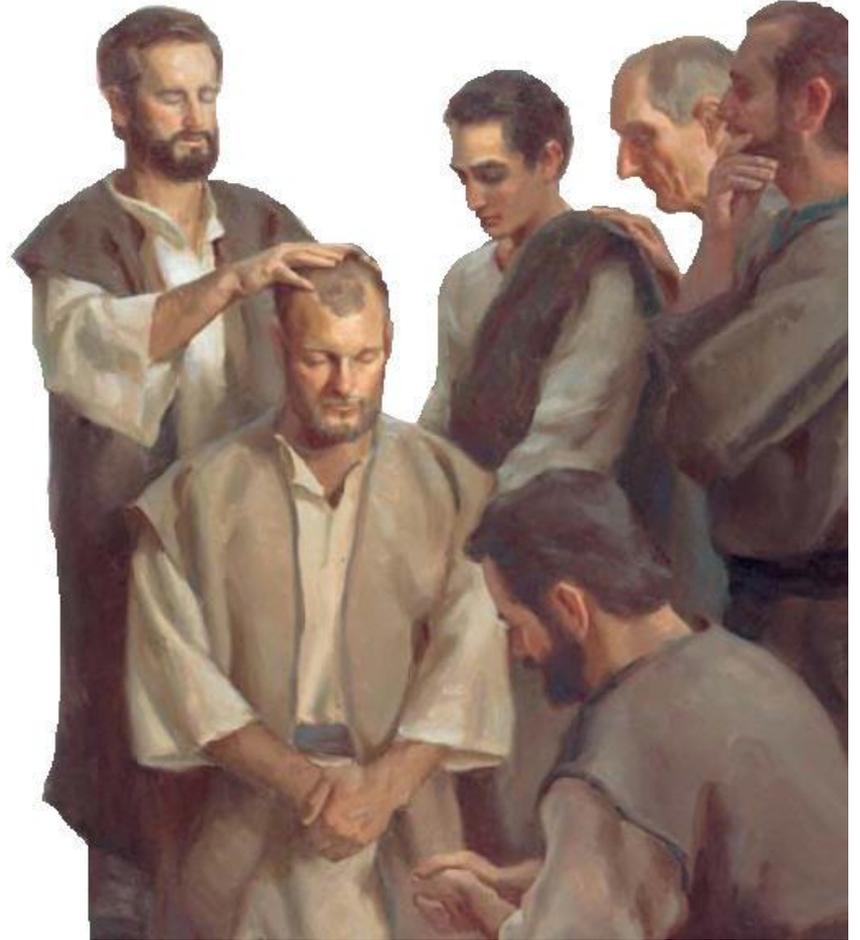


Let's write write thank-you notes to the bishop and his counselors.

Let's make a list of things that we want to thank these men for so you can include some of them in your thank you note.

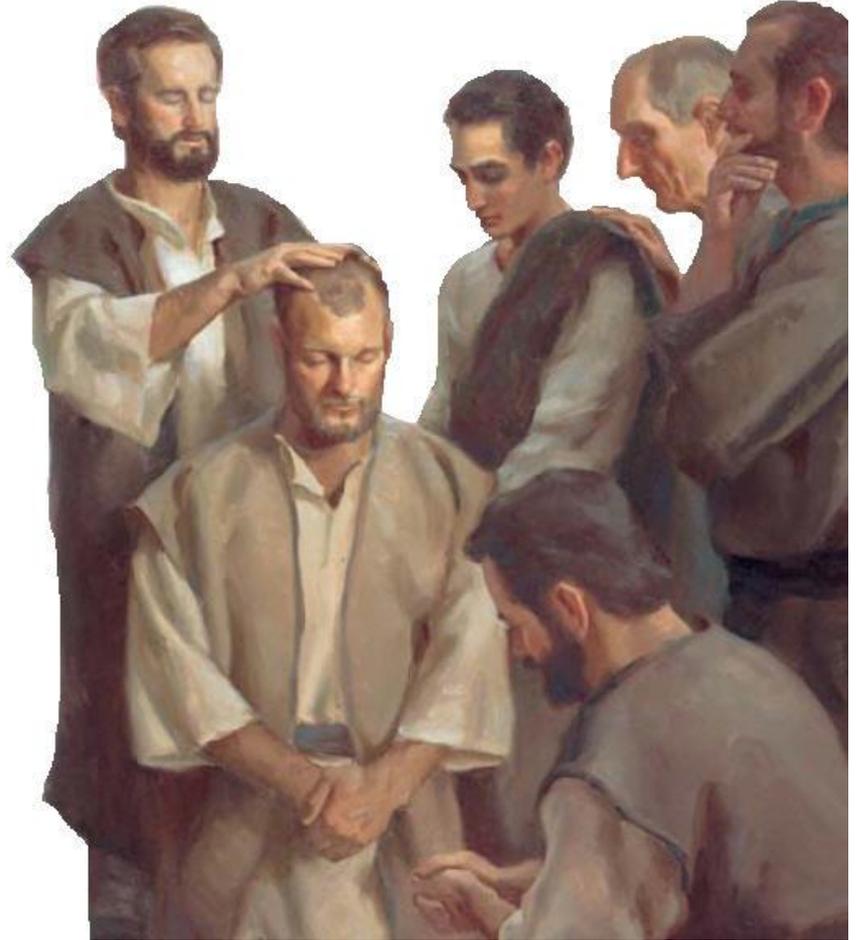
# The Fifth Article of Faith

- Let's try to memorize the [fifth article of faith](#).
- How does this article of faith apply to bishops?



# The Fifth Article of Faith

- Let's try to memorize the fifth article of faith.
- How does this article of faith apply to bishops?
  - They are called of God and ordained by someone with the proper authority.



# Testimony

- I am grateful for the early Church leaders and all they sacrificed to help establish the kingdom of God on the earth.
- I am glad we have our Bishop and all the things he does to help us and the rest of our ward family.

**OUR CLOSING PRAYER WILL BE GIVEN  
BY**



**(Enter Name Here)**

***THE END***

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Teachers should refer to the manual, scriptures and other resources when preparing and conducting the lesson.

# Fifth Article of Faith

- We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

# D&C 41:9

- 9 And again, I have called my servant Edward Partridge; and I give a commandment, that he should be appointed by the voice of the church, and ordained a bishop unto the church, to leave his merchandise and to spend all his time in the labors of the church;

# D&C 41:11

- 11 And this because his heart is pure before me, for he is like unto Nathanael of old, in whom there is no guile.

# section heading to D&C 36

- Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet to Edward Partridge, near Fayette, New York, December 9, 1830.
- Joseph Smith's history states that Edward Partridge "was a pattern of piety, and one of the Lord's great men."

# D&C 42:30–31, 34–35; 58:14, 17–18

- 30 And behold, thou wilt remember the poor, and consecrate of thy properties for their support that which thou hast to impart unto them, with a covenant and a deed which cannot be broken.
- 31 And inasmuch as ye impart of your substance unto the poor, ye will do it unto me; and they shall be laid before the bishop of my church and his counselors, two of the elders, or high priests, such as he shall appoint or has appointed and set apart for that purpose.

# D&C 42:30–31, 34–35; 58:14, 17–18

- 34 Therefore, the residue shall be kept in my storehouse, to administer to the poor and the needy, as shall be appointed by the high council of the church, and the bishop and his council;
- 35 And for the purpose of purchasing lands for the public benefit of the church, and building houses of worship, and building up of the New Jerusalem which is hereafter to be revealed—

# D&C 42:30–31, 34–35; 58:14, 17–18

- 4 Yea, for this cause I have sent you hither, and have selected my servant Edward Partridge, and have appointed unto him his mission in this land. 17 And whoso standeth in this mission is appointed to be a judge in Israel, like as it was in ancient days, to divide the lands of the heritage of God unto his children;
- 18 And to judge his people by the testimony of the just, and by the assistance of his counselors, according to the laws of the kingdom which are given by the prophets of God.

# D&C 119:1–4

- 1 Verily, thus saith the Lord, I require all their surplus property to be put into the hands of the bishop of my church in Zion,
- 2 For the building of mine house, and for the laying of the foundation of Zion and for the priesthood, and for the debts of the Presidency of my Church.
- 3 And this shall be the beginning of the tithing of my people.
- 4 And after that, those who have thus been tithed shall pay one-tenth of all their interest annually; and this shall be a standing law unto them forever, for my holy priesthood, saith the Lord.

# D&C 46:27–29

- 27 And unto the bishop of the church, and unto such as God shall appoint and ordain to watch over the church and to be elders unto the church, are to have it given unto them to discern all those gifts lest there shall be any among you professing and yet be not of God.
- 28 And it shall come to pass that he that asketh in Spirit shall receive in Spirit;
- 29 That unto some it may be given to have all those gifts, that there may be a head, in order that every member may be profited thereby.