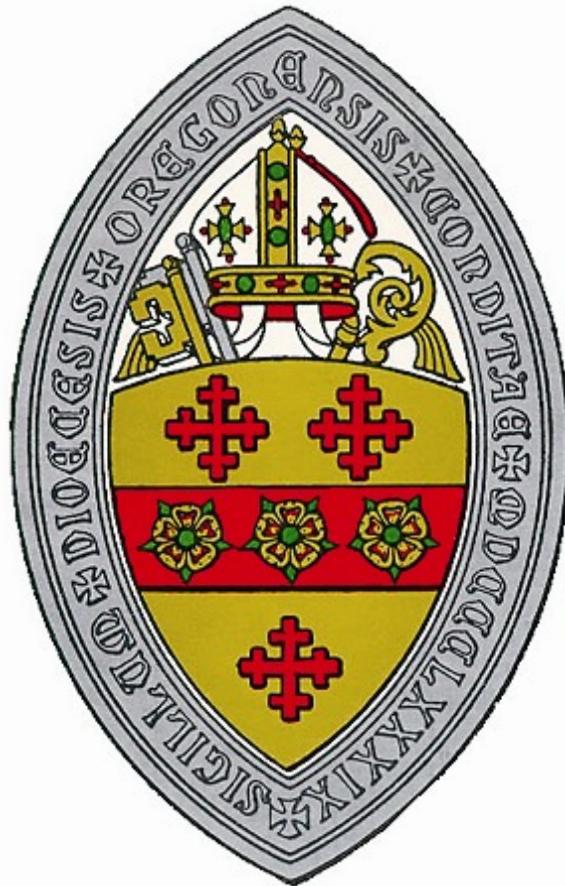


# Seeking a Shepherd for the Diocese Of Oregon

Children's Sessions



# Table of Contents

Session 1 <i>What is the Job of a Bishop?</i>	3
Session 2 <i>Do You Hear What I Hear?</i>	5
Background Materials	7
A Tale of Three Bishops	8

## **Oregon Education Sub-Committee Bishop's Search Committee**

The Rev. Nancy Crawford, Deacon  
Sydney Eddy Brewster  
The Rev. Roberto Arciniega

We are indebted to the Diocese of Southern Virginia for use of their materials, which have been adapted for use in the Diocese of Oregon.

If you have any questions or need assistance in implementing this curriculum in your congregation, please do not hesitate to contact Barbara Ross (Missioner for Christian Education and Lifelong Formation) at 503-636-5613 or [barbarar@diocese-oregon.org](mailto:barbarar@diocese-oregon.org).

Revisions made August 3, 2009

# What is the Job of a Bishop?

For leaders of this session:

## Objectives:

- To name some of the roles of a bishop
- To identify some of the roles of a shepherd
- To name similarities between the two roles

**Scripture Reference:** John 10: 1-5

**Episcopal Reference:** *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 517

## Getting Ready:

- Make a crook (crozier) and mitre as an example as described in activities below.
- Gather purple fabric, construction paper, or tissue paper.
- Make cards by writing the following, one each on four sheets of paper: Leads; Protects; Knows Their Names; Cares for Them.

**Gathering:** Invite the children to examine the crook (crozier) and discuss what it is and how it might be used. Have you ever seen anyone use one? If so, where?

**Scripture Lesson:** The Good Shepherd, John 10: 1-5

Gather children in a circle. Invite children to think about sheep – how do you think they feel, act, etc. Pass the crook around the circle and ask each child to share one characteristic of sheep when holding the crook (stubborn, fearful, fluffy, dumb...).

Read or tell the story of the Good Shepherd, introducing it to the children as: “Here is a story Jesus told about a shepherd and sheep.” Listen carefully for what the shepherd does to take care of his sheep (leads, protects from harm, knows their names, cares for them). Use prepared cards (making additional ones as children add their own ideas) to review the role of the shepherd. Jesus is called the Good Shepherd because he calls people to follow him.

**Looking at the role of a bishop:** Present crook (crozier), a mitre, and pupil material. Encourage children to comment on collection. These are all associated with a bishop. Just as many jobs (fire fighter, police officer, military personnel, doctors, etc.) require special clothing and equipment, so does the job of BISHOP.

*Leaders may choose to use the following outline to describe a bishop:*

- In the early church, leaders who were chosen were called bishops. Bishop means shepherd. The bishop looks after the church, just like a shepherd looks after the sheep (leads, protects, knows them, and cares for them). The bishop's crook or crozier is a reminder that she or he is a shepherd. The bishop also wears a special hat called a mitre. A bishop's special color is purple. Use the prepared cards naming the role of the shepherd to review the bishop's role.
- A Bishop serves as a shepherd by: visiting congregations, confirming people, serving as counselor and pastor to priests, presiding at diocesan meetings, serving in the House of Bishops, and promising to be "in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ."
- This fall in November, we will be electing a new bishop for our diocese. (If children are not familiar with the term 'diocese', explain that all the Episcopal churches in our part of Oregon are in one big family and the special word we use for that is 'diocese'.)

### **Activities**

1. Bishop's mitre. Provide each child with 2 rectangular pieces of card stock or other heavy paper. Cut corners or fold corners to make a triangle or cone shape. Fasten with staples on the shorter edges to make a cone shaped hat or mitre. Decorate with markers, stamps, or crayons.
2. Crozier. Use aluminum foil or brown wrapping paper to form a coil. Then shape into a crook. Use ribbon, yarn, masking tape, or strips of fabric to wrap around the crook. Make a large one for the lesson, but children may make any size desired.
3. Collage. Assemble construction paper, tissue paper, crepe paper, feathers, markers, stamps, buttons, beads, crayons, etc. in shades of purple. On a piece of card stock, using glue or glue sticks, create a collage.

### **Game**

1. Find the BISHOP. On 6 pieces of paper, write one of the letters of the word "bishop". Hide the six letters in the room and invite the children to find them and spell out the word BISHOP without making a sound.
2. Write a Want Ad (Grades 4-5). Invite the children to write a want ad for a new bishop. Using newsprint and markers, begin with "Wanted:" and include all the offerings in the children's own words.

### **Closing Prayer**

God, we give thanks for Jesus, the Good Shepherd. We are also thankful for all those who lead and care for us - parents, teachers, priests, and friends. Be with those who are choosing a new bishop for us. Help us to remember that you know us by name and always care for us. AMEN.

# Do You Hear What I Hear?

## or

# The “Calling” of a Bishop

**For leaders of this session:**

**Call:** What does that mean? Is it like calling us to dinner or calling on the phone? What is a “call” anyway? These are some questions that might be around as you and the children of your church begin to explore the process of finding a new bishop for the Diocese of Oregon, and particularly a shepherd for your congregation.

To “call” in the Biblical sense is to give a new name to someone and also to give them a certain destiny. Abram became Abraham, Jacob became Israel, Simon became Peter (the Rock), and Saul became Paul. When God called Isaiah (Isaiah 43:1) to serve as a prophet he was told, “I have called you by name, you are mine.” The book of Romans in the New Testament speaks of a people foretold and foreordained, and in due time “called.” God takes the initiative in calling people to be leaders, his covenant people in both the Old and New Testaments. So right there at the beginning, to “call” someone to serve in the church in the position of a very important leader is to turn to God prayerfully for guidance. So what do we pray about in this search and choice?

In our last session we took a look at what the job of bishop is. Today we’ll take a look at the skills and characteristics of a bishop. A good way to start looking at this choice is to look at some bishops in the past and present.

**Objectives:**

- Children will know what we look for in a bishop and what we are calling someone to do.
- Children can tell something about someone’s call to be a bishop.

**Resources needed:**

A Tale of Three Bishops – attachment with stories of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, Saint Thomas Becket, and Saint Nicholas of Myra

**Extra resource:** The movie “Babe”

**More information** on our particular search for a bishop can be found at [www.diocese-oregon.org/bishopsearch/bishopsearch.htm](http://www.diocese-oregon.org/bishopsearch/bishopsearch.htm)

**Lesson:**

- As the children come together, just for fun take a look at the movie “Babe.” Go to the part where the pig is the only one who knows how to communicate with the sheep and get them to move. Watch that together, and talk about how that pig became a leader of those sheep. Why did the pig do it? (Because he knew how to speak their language, and was willing to step forward and get them moving.) As you discuss what the pig did, note together that we are looking for a new bishop in our Diocese of Oregon. A bishop needs to be someone with vision for us who can lead us.
- Play a mixer together, such as *Who’s the Leader?* Everyone sits in a circle together and one person goes out of the room. While that person is out, the remaining children together quietly select a leader. That leader chooses and begins making a movement. When the leader changes his/her movement, the others quietly change their movement also. After they begin moving, the one person outside is called into the circle. From the middle of the circle, as members are moving and changing movement, the non-member gets three guesses as to who is the leader. (Options for very young children: play any “picking” game, such as Farmer in the Dell or Drop the Handkerchief.)  
Talk about what it takes to be a leader in the game. One needs to be aware of the group around them, one needs to make changes carefully, and one needs to be creative and lead the group for the game to be most fun. Mention also how a leader needs to be able to get people to work together.
- Divide into three groups and have each group choose one of the bishops from “A Tale of Three Bishops.” If you have access to the internet as a resource, you may wish to let them do their own research and explore more.  
In each group, talk about how this person’s life led him or her to a calling and the skills that helped them in their work. Be prepared to come before the group and either do a first-person story of that bishop or a TV interview of that bishop, so to share with everyone a sense of calling that person responded to and still works toward in his or her service.  
Gather all groups together at the end of the session and on a sheet of paper or wall board write some prayers that reflect God’s call, and the new bishop our diocese is seeking.

**Closing:**

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for the Diocese of Oregon, that we may receive a faithful pastor and a good shepherd who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Background Materials:

Lesser Feasts and Fasts-2000 published by Church Publishing Inc.

The Saint Book: For Parents, Teachers, Homilists, Storytellers, and Children by Mary Reed Newland

From the Episcopal Church website: [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)

Bishop: One of the three orders of ordained ministers in the Church, bishops are charged with the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the Church. Bishops represent Christ and his Church, and they are called to provide Christian leadership for their Diocese. Bishops hold jurisdiction in their Dioceses, with particular responsibility for the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the church. Bishops serve as the focus of diocesan unity and for the unity of their Dioceses with the wider Church.

From the The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church

Bishop: The highest order of ministers in the Christian Church. The word is an Anglo-Saxon corruption of *episcopus*. In Catholic Christendom (including the Anglican Communion) bishops are the chief pastors of the Church, who individually form a center of unity in their Dioceses, and together by sharing in the Episcopal college, embody the unity of the Church, and by their consecration and power to confer Orders, witness to the succession of the Church throughout the ages.

The chief duties of a modern bishop in the western Church consist of the general oversight of (his/her) Diocese, the leadership of (his/her) clergy and laity in the proclamation of the Gospel, and administering those Sacraments which (he/she) alone is competent to confer (Confirmation and Ordination). Early on in the Church the terms *episcopos*, and “presbyter” were used interchangeably (Acts 20:17 and 20:28) but for St. Ignatius (early second century) bishops, presbyters, and deacons are already quite distinct. Other places, such as in Egypt, the three distinct ministry levels did not seem to be established until much later.

From the Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer:

Q. What is the ministry of a bishop?

A. The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a Diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ’s name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ’s ministry.

## **A Tale of Three Bishops**

To give us a sense of who a bishop is, and what they might be called upon to do in this ministry as a leader in the church, let's look at the lives of three Bishops, all very different, and see what we can see in their stories about how God calls us to use our gifts in the ministry we do in the Episcopal Church.

For Discussion and Reflection

In each group, talk about how this person's life led him or her to a calling and the skills that helped them in their work.

Start a dialog with your group, discussing questions of whether or not it is better to keep religious faith separate from our government today. How can we be called and faithful to God today while our lives are very much in the world each day? What kind of a bishop might be able to keep a balance and what skills are needed?

If you could do something to help someone, what would you do? What could you do? What kind of actions would be helpful in a bishop for our diocese that would help people in need? What skills would be needed to do this job of Bishop of Oregon?

**Bishop Number One: Katharine Jefferts Schori.** Starting with the newest bishop first let's take a look at the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church today, 2009 A.D.



"I think life is meant to be challenging. If we're going to use the fullness of the gifts that we've been given, it means we have to continue to be stretched, and I look forward to that." **Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori**

"Shalom" – peacemaking defined by the Prophet Isaiah and reiterated by Jesus in Luke's gospel – is a ministry priority for Katharine Jefferts Schori, who took office November 1, 2006, as 26<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church.

Bishop Jefferts Schori was elected to this office on June 18, 2006 by vote of the 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention, in Columbus, Ohio. This Convention also set the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals as The Episcopal Church's top mission priority. In her full endorsement of these goals, Bishop Jefferts Schori calls upon Episcopalians and the wider global community to work together for their implementation.

Bishop Jefferts Schori's career as an oceanographer preceded her studies for the priesthood, to which she was ordained in 1994. She remains an active, instrument-rated pilot – a skill she applied when traveling between the congregations of the Diocese of Nevada, where she was elected bishop in 2000 and ordained to the episcopate February 24, 2001. At the time of her election as bishop of Nevada, she was assistant rector of the Church of the Good Samaritan in Corvallis, Oregon.

Bishop Jefferts Schori, 55, holds a B.S. degree in biology from Stanford University (1974), an M.S. (1977) and Ph.D. (1983) in oceanography from Oregon State University, and an M.Div. from Church Divinity School of the Pacific (1994).

Bishop Jefferts Schori was born March 26, 1954, in Pensacola, Florida. She grew up in the Seattle area and later moved with her family to New Jersey. Bishop Jefferts Schori and her husband, Richard Miles Schori, a retired theoretical mathematician (topologist), were married in 1979. They have one adult daughter, Katharine Johanna who is a captain and pilot in the U. S. Air Force.

Bishop Jefferts Schori brings to her ministry emphases on baptismal ministry and adult education. As Presiding Bishop, she serves as chief pastor to The Episcopal Church's 2.4 million members in 16 countries and 110 dioceses. As Primate, Bishop Jefferts Schori joins in consultation with other principal bishops of the 38 member Provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion, seeking to make common cause for global good and reconciliation.

## Bishop Number Two: Saint Thomas Beckett (1128-1170)



Collect: O God, our strength and our salvation, you called your servant Thomas Becket to be a shepherd of your people and a defender of your Church: Keep your household from all evil and raise up among us faithful pastors and leaders who are wise in the ways of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ the shepherd of our souls, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

The life and death of Thomas Becket have intrigued scholars and church people for centuries. Was he a politician or a saint? or perhaps both?

He was born in London in 1118 of a wealthy Norman family and educated in England and France. He then became an administrator for Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury. Later he was sent to study law in Italy and France and, after being ordained deacon, he was appointed Archdeacon of Canterbury. His administrative skills eventually brought him to the notice of King Henry II, who to Thomas's surprise, appointed him Chancellor of England. He had many responsibilities in this position, raising the money for the King's wars, accompanying the King's armies, as well as being responsible for the King's eldest sons. He and the King became intimate friends, and because of Becket's unquestioning loyalty and support of the King's interests in both Church and State, Henry secured Thomas's election as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162. It was soon found that Bishop Thomas Becket took his calling seriously and would not be controlled by a king, for he was in the service of God. The only power Becket had as Archbishop of Canterbury was that he could excommunicate the King. The struggle between the two became so bitter that Thomas sought exile at an abbey in France.

When he returned to England six years later, the fragile reconciliation between Henry and the Archbishop broke down. In a fit of rage the King is alleged to have asked his courtiers, "Who will rid me of this troublesome priest?" Four barons, taking Henry's words as an order, made their way to Canterbury, and upon finding the Archbishop in the cathedral, struck him down with their swords. Later, when the monks of Canterbury undressed Thomas's body to wash it and prepare it for burial, they discovered that under his Episcopal robes their worldly and determined Archbishop was wearing a hair shirt. (Hair shirts used to be made from goat's hair or other coarse cloth and people wore them next to the skin, thus keeping the wearer in a state of discomfort and constant awareness of the shirt's presence.) While such a garment hardly proves that a person is a saint, it clearly indicates that Thomas was motivated in the exercise of his office by far more than political considerations. His final words to the four barons before receiving the fatal blow were, "Willingly I die for the name of Jesus and in the defense of the Church."

### **Bishop Number Three: Saint Nicholas of Myra**



Collect: Almighty God, in your love you gave your servant Nicholas of Myra a perpetual name for deeds of kindness both on land and sea: Grant, we pray, that your Church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, Amen

It is believed that Nicholas was born in Patarna, in Turkey in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. His parents were wealthy people and raised him to be a faithful and devout Christian. They died during an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. The young orphan decided to follow Jesus' words in his life to "sell what you have and give the money to the poor." Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made the Bishop of Myra on the southwest coast of Asia Minor while still a young man. He may have been imprisoned for his faith in the persecution (303-311) that began under the Emperor Diocletian, and he may have attended the Council of Nicaea in 325. He was honored as a saint in Constantinople in the sixth century by the Emperor Justinian. In England almost 400 churches were dedicated to him.

Nicholas is the traditional patron of seafarers and sailors. He is also known as a patron of children, based on his reputation as a bearer of gifts to children. His name was brought to America by the Dutch colonists in New York, from whom he is popularly known as Santa Claus. Nicholas is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on December 6.

One legend says he dropped three gold balls into the home of a poor man with three daughters, giving them a dowry so they could be married. The larger the dowry in those times, the better a husband to provide for the daughter could be found. Without a dowry, a young woman was unlikely to marry and for women in that time, this could be dangerous. It is said that the gold was thrown through a window and landed in their stockings or shoes, hence many of our stockings hung by the chimney with care today. Three gold balls, or oranges, are a symbol of Saint Nicholas.