

“The Candy Cane Message”

1. Opening

Hold up a candy cane.

“Many people enjoy candy canes at Christmastime, but did you know this simple piece of candy can be used to tell the story of Jesus? Today we’ll look at how the candy cane’s shape, stripes, and colors point us to the heart of Christmas.”

2. The Candy Cane as a Shepherd’s Staff

Symbol: The **shape** of the candy cane.

Scripture #1 – Luke 2:8–11 (NKJV)

“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night... And the angel said to them, ‘For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’”

- The candy cane looks like a **shepherd’s staff**, reminding us that the first announcement of Jesus’ birth wasn’t to kings, but to humble shepherds.
- God chose ordinary people to receive extraordinary news.
- Jesus Himself came as our **Good Shepherd**, watching over us and leading us to life.

Talking Points

- God sees you no matter how small or unnoticed you feel.
 - Just as the shepherds hurried to see Jesus, we are invited to come close to Him.
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3. The Candy Cane as the Letter “J”

Symbol: Turn the candy cane upside down—it’s a **J**.

Scripture #2 – Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

“You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

- “J” reminds us of the name **Jesus**, which means **Savior**.
- Christmas is beautiful, but its true meaning is this: **God sent His Son to rescue us**.
- Jesus didn’t just come as a baby—He came with purpose, love, and a mission.

Talking Points

- Jesus is not just part of Christmas; He *is* the reason for Christmas.
 - We carry His name when we follow Him—our lives should point back to Him.
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4. The Red and White Stripes

Symbol: The **colors**—white for purity, red for sacrifice.

Scripture #3 – Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)

*“Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool.”*

We can’t truly talk about the birth of Jesus without bringing up why He came in the first place; to die for us.

- **White** represents the purity and sinlessness of Jesus.
- **Red stripes** remind us of His blood shed for us on the cross.

Talking Points

- Christmas leads us to the cross—Jesus came to save.
- Because of Him, our sins can be washed clean.
- The candy cane becomes a message of grace.

5. Closing Illustration

“Every time you see a candy cane this season, remember:

- The **staff** of the Good Shepherd
- The **J** that stands for Jesus
- The **white purity** of Christ
- The **red stripes** of His sacrifice

It’s more than a sweet treat—it’s a reminder of the Savior who loves you.”

6. Closing Prayer

Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to us—born in a manger, living among us, and laying down Your life for us. As we enjoy the beauty of Christmas, help us remember that You are our Shepherd, our Savior, and our source of forgiveness. Make our hearts pure and our lives reflect Your love. Amen.”