

# Candy Canes

## remind me of the real Christmas

A candy cane reminds me of a shepherd's staff. On that first Christmas, the lowly shepherds were the first to be told of the baby born in Bethlehem.

Luke 2: 8-12 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.



And later Jesus said that he was the 'good shepherd' that would care for and protect me.

John 10:11-14 *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then*

*the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—"*

**The stripe pattern reminds me of his taking my punishment for me and providing healing for me.**

Isaiah 53: 5 *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.*

**The red and white colors remind me of my sin and how he transforms my sin and me.**

*[Turn over for the rest of the story.]*

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

**Upside down, a candy cane is the letter J. The J is for Jesus. He is the one who redeems me.**

John 3:16-18 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

**So you see, a candy cane is a symbol of the true reason for celebration at Christmas.**

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