



## **Candy Cane Cards**

Create candy cane treats with evangelistic messages. Perhaps one of the sweetest Christmas traditions is giving and receiving candy canes. Many who enjoy eating this treat are unaware of the symbolism that is rooted in the person of Jesus Christ. Print, cut out and attach the cards to your candy canes. Keep them in a basket near your front door, ready to hand out to all of your guests (and maybe a delivery person or two) this holiday season to remind everyone that Jesus is the reason for the season.

### **Discussion Questions:**

Who do you think sent the very first Christmas card? (Share the history of the Christmas card.)

Why do you think people who don't believe in Jesus still love Christmas so much? (Explain that even people who reject Jesus still long for the peace and joy He came to bring. They can feel His presence for a season without having to invite Him into their lives.)

How can we spread the Good News of the gospel by sending Christmas cards? (Talk about the importance of buying or making cards that depict the true meaning of Christmas. Explain how each one we send is like a little seed planted in the heart of the person that receives it.)



## The Legend of the Candy Cane

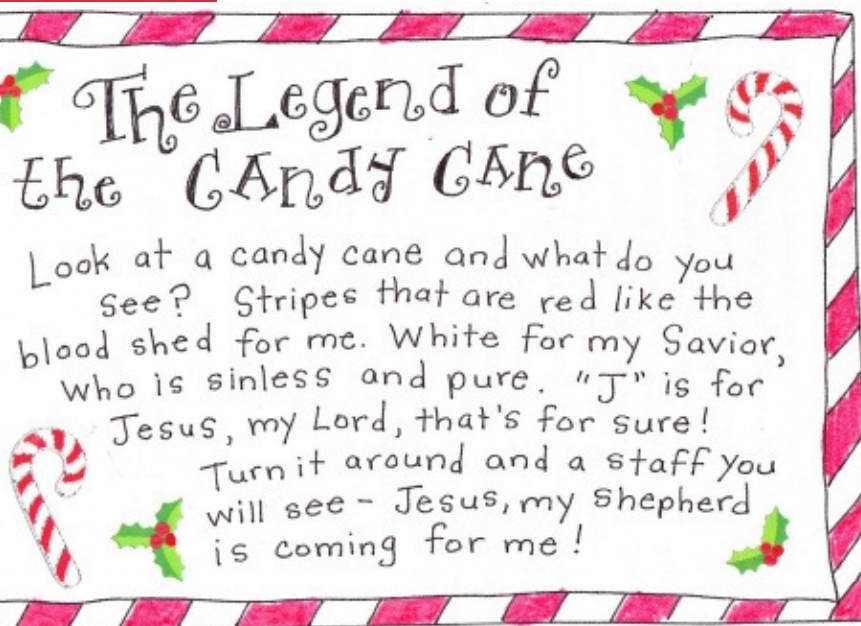
Many years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a candy at Christmas time that would serve as a witness to his Christian faith.

He wanted to incorporate several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus. He began with a stick of pure white hard candy; white to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus; hard to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the Church; firmness to represent the promise of God.

The candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior. He thought it could also represent the staff of the Good Shepherd, with which he reached down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received, by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life. Unfortunately, the candy became known as a candy cane - a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time.

But the true meaning is still there for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.



## What's in a Candy Cane?

Shape - A  
Shepherd's Staff

Color - White, he  
cleansed our sin

Letter - "J" for  
Jesus, the reason  
for the season

Stripes - By His  
stripes we are  
healed.

Color - Red, his  
blood shed for us

Candy - His love  
toward us is sweet

by @fondalo

Merry Christmas