
“Candy Cane Gospel”

Children’s Sermon Object Lesson for Christmas



Children’s Message: Candy Cane Gospel

Using a Christmas treat as a reminder of Christ’s love and sacrifice

Main Objective: Christmas is full of symbols and celebrations. Admittedly, some of these classic holiday images actually came from pagan origins. The beauty of Advent is that we can take things that originally were secular, and create a faith twist that brings meaning. Christmas itself has roots in more naturalistic practices, but we focus on the birth of Jesus. In this lesson, a simple holiday candy is used as a visual reminder of important Biblical truths.

*Disclaimer: the “stories” behind the invention of the candy cane are surrounded by legend. We may not know all of the exact intentions of the early confection, but we can still use it as a powerful reminder of Jesus.

Law/Gospel Theme: Jesus was born as the fulfillment of God’s promises to us. This Messiah was sent to live and die so that we may be restored in relationship to the Father. We live by His death, and can live in gratitude for His sacrifice.

Optional Materials: Candy canes (traditional red and white variety)

Bible Passage: Varied passages (recommended verses involving shepherd topics and saving blood of Christ).

- Don’t miss the video demonstration of this [Candy Cane Object Lesson](#)
- See another [Christmas Children’s Sermon from Matthew 1:18-25](#)
- Download our printable [Candy Cane Poem about Jesus](#)
- Browse our selection of [Christmas Coloring Pages](#) and [Christmas Bible Lessons](#)



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Candy Cane Object Lesson for Christmas

Greet the children with enthusiasm for the Christmas season...

Hello, children of God! Are you excited for Christmas? We have been talking about some wonderful stories as we honor the Advent season, and now the time is almost here to celebrate Christmas Day! And you know, there are a lot of great things that remind us of Christmas. We think about stars, Christmas trees, gingerbread cookies...what are some of your favorite things to see and enjoy at Christmas time? Well, I want to tell you about one of my favorite Christmas treats. (*Pull out candy cane*)

What is this? That's right; it's a candy cane! And you know, candy canes have been around for hundreds of years. There are some different stories about who originally invented this item and why, and we don't know for sure what all of the details are. But candy canes are extra special because they can give us some important reminders about the true reason for the season! Let me share with you a little about this tasty treat.

First, let's look at the shape of a candy cane. It's curved at the end, kind of like a shepherd's staff. Shepherds use these crooks to help in herding their sheep. And shepherds remind me of the shepherds in the Nativity story who heard the news of Christ's birth from the angels. But shepherds are also important because Jesus said that He is the good shepherd, and he laid down His life for His "sheep" (that's us!). But guess what else? If I turn this candy cane upside down, it looks like a letter...what letter might this be? It's a J for Jesus!

Now, let's look at the colors on a candy cane. The red stripes here can be a painful but powerful reminder to us that Jesus shed His blood to pay for our sins. By His suffering and death, we are healed. In fact, we are made pure and new, and WHITE as snow, just like the candy cane has white as well!



You know what else is neat about a candy cane? It has a refreshing minty flavor. The strength of that flavor can remind us that even though Jesus had a tough life and death, He was strong and powerful in it. And we can also contemplate how refreshing it is to know God. Faith in Jesus gives us renewed hope and freshens our spirits, just like the mint in this candy cane livens up our breath!

So next time you see or enjoy a candy cane, think of Jesus. So many everyday items can be excellent reminders to us of God's constant presence in our lives. He is always there, no matter where we go or what we do. Let's say a prayer of thanks for that, and then I have a candy cane for each of you to enjoy!

Children's Prayer Moment

Prayer:

(Have kids repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for coming to Earth for us

Thank you for living and dying for our sins

Help us remember you are near

Every day and in every way

We love you, God!

Thank you for Jesus

In His name, Amen!



Bible Verses/story to Reference:

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

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

-John 10:14-18

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

-Hebrews 13:20-21

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. -1 John 1:7

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Look at the Candy Cane

What do you see?

Stripes that are red

Like the blood shed for me

White is for my Savior

Who's sinless and pure!

"J" is for Jesus My Lord, that's for sure!

Turn it around,

And a staff you will see

Jesus my shepherd

Was born for Me!



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Candy Cane Poem about Jesus

 ministry-to-children.com/candy-cane-poem-about-jesus

Felicia Mollohan

November 13,
2009

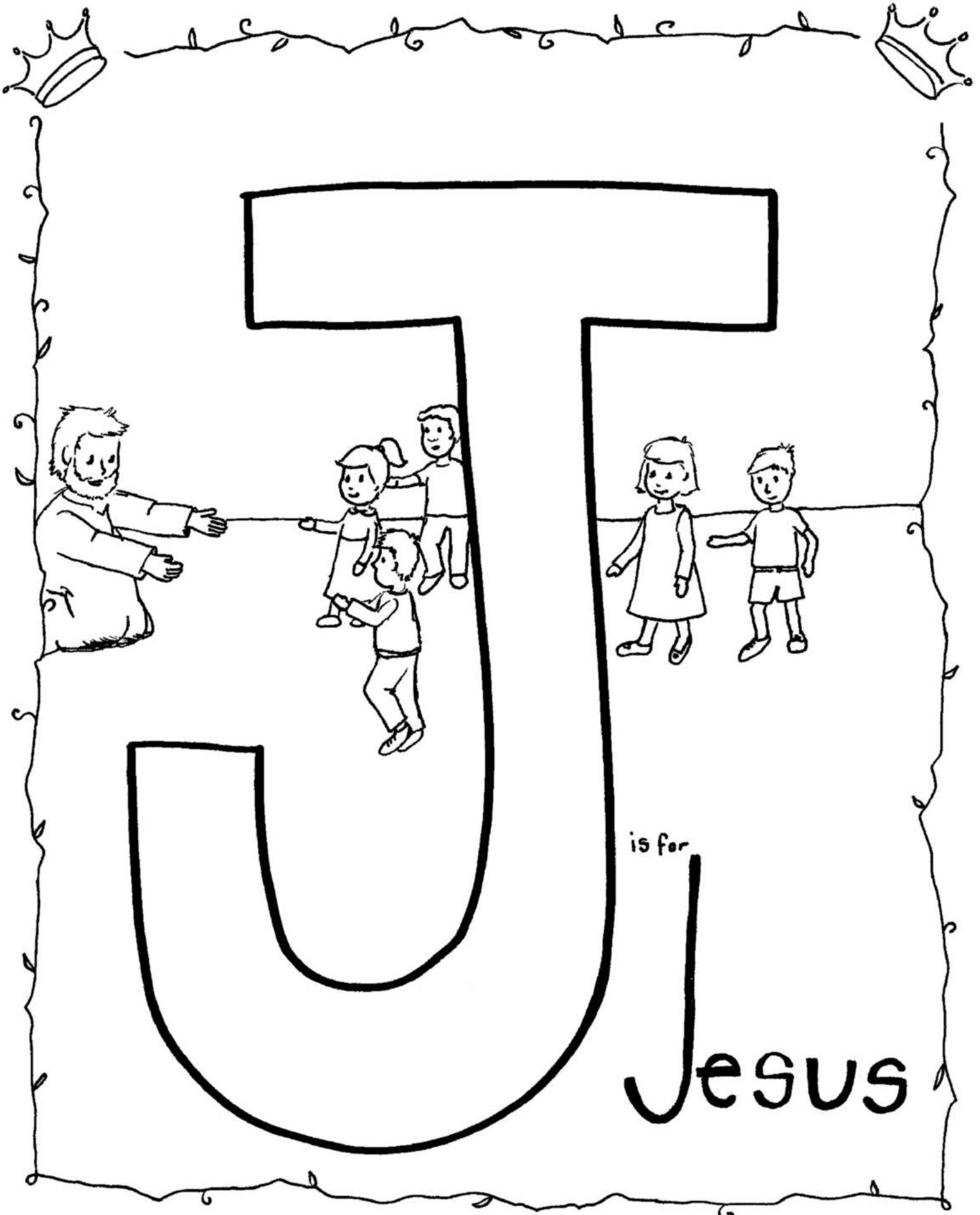
Here is a popular poem about the Christmas candy cane and how it can remind us of the Gospel. I have seen this used alongside the legend of the candy cane, but I think it's better to *leave the legend part out*. Just use it as an object lesson or children's sermon for the children. Say, "Let me teach you a poem about the candy cane that will help us to remember Jesus this Christmas season."

We have prepared a handout of this poem that you can download and print. Each page is divided into four parts and includes the poem alongside a simple graphic of a candy cane. [Click here](#) to download the Candy Cane Poem.

Christmas Candy Cane Poem about Jesus

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White is for my Savior
Who's sinless and pure!
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Turn it around
And a staff you will see
Jesus my shepherd
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Browse our [Christmas lessons](#), [Christmas crafts](#), or most popular [Christmas printables](#).



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We don't ask for money, but we do need your help. Please consider the following:

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3. Share our posts on Pinterest or Facebook.
4. Tell a friend to google "Ministry to Children."
5. Add me (and our team) to your personal prayer list.

Our website now has over 4,000 free resources for your children's ministry. Each month we're adding even more! Here are a few popular sections:

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