

# Christmas - Candy Canes



Candy canes come in all colours and flavours these days. But regardless of what colour or flavour candy cane you prefer, a candy cane just isn't a candy cane if it doesn't have that familiar candy cane shape.

The shape of a candy cane has a practical purpose. The hook on top allows us to hang candy canes on Christmas trees. But there's a symbolic purpose to the shape of the candy cane as well. The candy cane resembles a shepherd's crook, making it a good reminder of the only visitors Mary, Joseph, and Jesus had the night Jesus was born.

When God invited the shepherds to witness Jesus' birth, he invited everyone to come see the manger. Not only did God want us to know we are invited, he wanted us to understand that everyone is invited. As God's people, we need to welcome everyone to the manger. Jesus wasn't born in a palace, set apart from the people. He wasn't even born in a proper bed. He was born in a stable, and his first visitors were shepherds. God made it very clear right from the beginning that Jesus was someone that anyone, even a lowly shepherd, could come and see.

An upside down candy cane resembles a J - the first letter in the name of Jesus. Christmas is when we remember Jesus' birthday. The greatest gift isn't wrapped up waiting for us under our Christmas tree it's in the Nativity scene, it's the baby in a manger. Jesus came to die for our sins. He came to break down the wall that separated us from God so that we could know him.

Jesus was the greatest Christmas gift ever given.

